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Japan

Final SII Report To Be Presented in Jun

OW2604062690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan and the United States will prepare a final report on the outcome of their Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) trade talks at a meeting in Tokyo in late June following a session in the U.S., a Japanese government source said Thursday. Details of the two meetings have yet to be worked out. The source said the U.S. meeting will begin around May 25 and the Tokyo session will start on June 27 or 28. The location of the U.S. talks was not immediately known.

It had been rumored that the two countries would call a final meeting somewhere in the U.S. Japan asked for the change to Tokyo because the last meeting that produced an interim report on the SII dialogue was held in Washington, sources said.

SII is aimed at eliminating structural barriers to bilateral trade and investment. Japanese barriers cited in the interim report included a law restricting the opening of large new retail stores.

Yamaguchi on Forestry Products Talks With U.S.

OW2604004790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0028 GMT 25 Apr 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, April 24 KYODO—The outcome of talks on forest products, now under way in Tokyo, will determine whether or not Japan will be designated a Super 301 country under the 1988 U.S. Trade Law, a senior Japanese politician said Tuesday. Toshio Yamaguchi, chairman of the Special Committee on Economic Adjustment of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), made the statement at a news conference after meeting separately with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and Vice President Dan Quayle.

"I had the impression that the forestry talks are a make-or-break determinant" in the Super 301 designations by Hills later this week, Yamaguchi said.

During the hourlong meeting with Hills, Yamaguchi said he repeatedly urged the American trade envoy not to designate Japan as a priority country engaged in unfair trade practices under the Super 301 Provision of the Trade Law. The provision calls for U.S. retaliation against a country so designated if ensuing bilateral talks fail.

Hills responded that she wants to see a "clear horizon" by resolving all key trade disputes with Japan, according to a Japanese Government official who attended the meeting.

Yamaguchi and Keijiro Murata, the special LDP panel's vice chairman and a former international trade and industry minister, made the same appeal to Quayle.

Hills told Yamaguchi, Murata, and other members of the LDP mission that she is under intense pressure from Congress to designate Japan for the second year in a row.

Japan, Brazil, and India were designated as countries with unfair trade practices under the Super 301 Provision last year.

Yamaguchi told Hills that an interim report on the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) is "the beginning but not the end" of Japan-U.S. efforts to foster good trade relations. But congressional sources rejected such arguments, contending the SII and the Super 301 designations are two separate issues.

"With SII there is no enforcement mechanism," said a top aide to a senator. "SII cannot be a substitute for the Trade Law." He and others warned that failure to designate Japan this year would force U.S. legislators to take away much of the President's authority on trade matters. They cited speeches on Monday by Sens. Lloyd Bentsen and John Danforth, who played the key role in formulating the 1988 Trade Law.

"Our top priority is not the Uruguay Round (of global trade liberalization talks)," Danforth said. "Our top priority is enforcement of the 1988 Trade Act."

Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said President George Bush will face a tough task in winning congressional approval for U.S. trade pacts with Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, and a possible waiver of the Jackson-Vanik Provision of the law for China, as well as for the Uruguay Round. The provision restricts some trade privileges for communist nations which curb emigration of Jews and dissidents.

"If the administration ignores a trade law that Congress has constitutionally enacted, it may poison the well for consideration of those agreements," the Texas Democrat said.

Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate International Trade Subcommittee, told Yamaguchi he too favors designating Japan as a Super 301 country. He expressed the hope that the dispute over forest products will be resolved soon, Japanese officials said.

Timber Trade Agreement Reached With U.S.

OW2604033890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0221 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan and the United States reached an agreement late Wednesday on expanding Japan's market for U.S. timber products, trade officials said. The accord lays to rest for the time being the possibility of a citing of Japan by the U.S. as an unfair trading partner and the imposition of retaliatory measures under the Super 301 Clause of the 1988 U.S. Omnibus Trade Act, they said.

Under the accord, reached in talks in Tokyo, Japan will reduce the tariff on structural laminated wood products from its current 15 and 20 percent to 3.9 percent, effective on June 1.

Japan and the U.S. have agreed to continue negotiations on the reduction of duties on other wood products at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, they said.

Regarding building codes, Japan has also agreed to open up its new-product certification system, to greatly increase its use of timber products for the construction of three-story multifamily housing, and to accept U.S. testing procedures, they said.

The two sides will hold regular meetings to ensure that the reforms are indeed taking place. The first of these meetings will be held sometime during the latter half of this summer, the officials said.

Government Officials Comment

OW2604061990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan agrees with the United States that the just-reached bilateral pact on the forest product trade could boost U.S. exports by some 1 billion dollars a year, Japanese Government officials said Thursday. U.S. exports of wood products to Japan already are showing an annual increase of 600-700 million dollars, officials of the Forestry Agency said. It is possible that the new accord, reached late Wednesday in Tokyo, could boost that figure by 300-400 million dollars, they added.

Forestry trade was the last of three areas cited by the U.S. last year as unfair trade fields under the so-called "Super 301" Provision of the 1988 U.S. Trade Law. The two countries have already agreed on ways to improve U.S. access to the Japanese satellite and supercomputer markets.

The latest accord prompted U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills to indicate Washington will not put Japan on a new "Super 301" list of unfair traders, which is expected to be announced in a day or two.

A chief Japanese government spokesman said the agreement on the wood product trade makes it clear that the two countries can resolve their problems through talks. He expressed hope for continued talks on other pending issues.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, citing Hills' statement in Washington on Wednesday, said he is certain Japan will not be on the upcoming "Super 301" list.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu welcomed the forestry trade accord, saying it is "good" that the two nations have resolved the dispute on the basis of "common perception."

Japanese trade officials hailed the accord, with one senior official saying it "will have good effects" on bilateral efforts to solve other pending problems, including the ongoing Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks aimed at removing barriers to trade and investment.

Hijacker's Papers Submitted to PRC Embassy

OW2604004990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry on Tuesday passed a custody permit for hijacker Zhang Zhenhai to the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo, paving the way for his handover to China after the Supreme Court upheld the extradition case against him. The permit, issued by the Justice Ministry, enables Chinese officials to take custody of Zhang, 36, for return and trial in China.

Commenting on the matter, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said, "It is up to the Chinese side when they will transfer him," adding the ministry "will proceed with necessary procedures in accordance with the law."

Government sources said Japanese and Chinese authorities are to begin discussions on details of the extradition, including guarding by Japanese police when transferring Zhang, who commandeered a New York-bound Air China passenger flight to Fukuoka, western Japan after being denied landing permission by Seoul authorities December 16.

In February, China made an official extradition request for Zhang, based on an arrest warrant issued by Beijing City security authorities. Zhang has been under detention in Japan since he was pushed out of the hijacked aircraft by a Chinese flight attendant shortly after it landed. He was moved to the Tokyo Detention House after being treated in hospital for a broken pelvis suffered in the fall from the plane.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a Tokyo High Court decision made last Friday authorizing Zhang's extradition, thereby dashing his hopes of gaining political refugee status and remaining in Japan for trial.

The Supreme Court judgment rejected a special appeal from Zhang's Japanese defense counsel, filed last Saturday, which demanded that the Supreme Court void the lower court ruling to protect Zhang from possible Chinese persecution for his prodemocracy activism in China. The Supreme Court said no appeal of the Tokyo High Court ruling is possible because the extradition law has no such provision.

The lawyers immediately voiced anger over Tuesday's Supreme Court judgment, saying the action is "tantamount to abandoning judicial independence from politics."

They referred to a 1890s Supreme Court ruling sentencing a Japanese policeman to life in jail for the unsuccessful attempted murder of a visiting Russian prince in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture. That ruling has been widely regarded as showing judicial independence as the Government of the time insisted the policeman be executed to maintain good relations with Russia.

"We cannot but doubt the sensitivities of the Japanese courts human rights sense," they said, reiterating a comment they had made following the High Court decision last Friday.

The lawyers had earlier made another appeal demanding the extradition order be canceled. The lawyers have also filed lawsuits with the Tokyo District Court demanding that the extradition be invalidated and asking Justice Minister Shin Hasegawa to grant Zhang political refugee status in Japan.

Those last minute suits are not yet resolved, lawyers said.

In central Tokyo, hunger strikes by six Chinese residents of Japan entered their second day Tuesday in protest of Tokyo's move for Zhang's extradition. The strikers, all men aged between 27 and 40, displayed paper slogans rapping the extradition.

"Mr. Zhang's question is now an international concern for those who cherish human rights, apart from a merely Sino-Japanese problem," a striker said. Another said, "We are on strike also with a desperate hope for China's prodemocratic drive." An activist said six other Chinese residents may join the hunger strike in a few days.

Meanwhile, the Tokyo office of a dissident prodemocracy group Federation of Democracy in China (FDC) made public the Japanese translation of a letter from Zhang Zhenhai that called for a continued fight for democracy in his country.

The letter starts with a message to the hunger strikers, saying, "Comrades, please don't get ill for myself alone. Please keep strength for the (prodemocratic) struggle." It was handed to defense lawyers who met him Tuesday.

He pledged "to keep the battle even if the Japanese Government hands me over to the Chinese Government." "Even if I may be shot to death...secretly...that would eventually lead Chinese people toward further fight...," the letter stated.

"Fellow countrymen, return to China through any possible routes to fight for the establishment of free, democratic, and law-governed government," the letter added. "The Japanese Government has proved its shortsightedness...as the end of communism will shortly arrive in China."

The U.S.-based human rights group, Asia Watch, urged Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in a telex dated Monday to reverse the extradition order and let Zhang stand trial in Japan.

A Japanese civic group, called the Network against Human Rights Oppression in China, criticized Tokyo's move for "taking political consideration instead of human rights protection," and demanded Zhang either be allowed to stand trial in Japan or send him to another democratic nation. In a related move, London-based International Amnesty's Tokyo members led some 100 protesters holding flowers and candles to march Tokyo streets Tuesday night to appeal Zhang be permitted to stay in Japan.

At the front gate of the Chinese Embassy, they put a letter for Premier Li Peng into the embassy mailbox demanding China to repeal its extradition request if it cannot provide him with a fair trial.

Foreign Ministry officials have said China repeatedly assured Japan that it will not charge Zhang for crimes other than hijacking and that a possible prison term for the crime would be between three and 10 years.

Zhang's Lawyers Appeal Decision

OW2504223090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Lawyers representing Chinese hijacker Zhang Zhenhai appealed on Wednesday against a Tokyo District Court decision earlier in the day to reject a petition to block his extradition to China. In a last-minute legal action to counter Justice Minister Shin Hasegawa's order on Monday to deport Zhang, the defense lawyers filed the fresh appeal with the Tokyo High Court.

They also said they will ask Chinese authorities to allow Japanese lawyers be present at trial sessions in China if Zhang is to be extradited.

The Tokyo District Court, designating hijacking as an internationally serious crime, rejected a defense argument that the extradition order is inappropriate. An extradition order is issued after examining various factors including "diplomatic considerations for the country demanding the extradition," it said.

Friday's Tokyo High Court decision, which paved the way for Hasegawa to issue the extradition order, also denied that hijacking is a political offense.

The district court acted on a petition, filed on Saturday, which called for a court order to prevent the justice minister's extradition order from coming into force.

Wednesday's district court decision virtually cleared the way for the handover of Zhang, 36, to China, judicial sources said. Zhang is wanted by Chinese authorities for allegedly hijacking a New York-bound Air China passenger flight and commandeering it to Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, in December.

Zhang, who has been appealing for political refugee status, claims he hijacked the Chinese airliner to flee persecution at home for his part in pro-democracy activities.

Lawyers and human rights groups said extradition is against international human rights standards and demanded Zhang be allowed to remain here to stand trial in Japan. They said Zhang may face execution or other severe penalties if sent back home.

The district court, countering defense arguments that China lacks modern criminal principles, said differences in legal systems are inevitable between independent nations. It added China has assured Japan that due process will be guaranteed to Zhang.

Japan's Foreign Ministry officials have also repeated Chinese assurances that Zhang will be tried only on hijacking charges, which carry a penalty of three to 10 years imprisonment.

Another defense counsel appeal against Friday's Tokyo High Court decision was turned down by the Supreme Court on Tuesday. The Foreign Ministry issued a custody permit to the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo the same day.

Government sources said Japanese and Chinese authorities are discussing when and how to transfer Zhang from the Tokyo detention house.

Meanwhile, the London-based International Amnesty Organization continued its signature-collecting campaign in Japan. Six Chinese nationals in Japan entered the third day of their hunger strike Wednesday in central Tokyo, appealing to the Japanese Government not to extradite Zhang.

Government Considers Change in Korean Treatment

OW2604055690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0518 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan will not scrap its system of fingerprinting foreigners, but will consider devising a new way to identify third-generation Koreans living in Japan that would avert "a loss of personal dignity," a government source said Thursday. The Government is studying a proposal to introduce a special family register, based on the alien registration system now in place in Japanese cities and towns, as a substitute for fingerprinting future generations of the Korean minority in Japan, the source said.

Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau for the Japanese Foreign Ministry, is expected to sound out his South Korean counterpart, Kim Chong-ki, on the plan in Seoul on Thursday. The meeting will occur during the first day of working-level negotiations on the legal status of Japan's newest generation of Koreans, according to the source.

Tanino is expected to seek Seoul's understanding in exempting the third-generation Koreans from the fingerprinting requirement, while insisting that Japan cannot scrap the entire system. South Korea has included the antifingerprinting request in a nine-point list of demands.

The first generation of Korean residents in Japan, as defined in a 1965 Tokyo-Seoul accord, and the second generation—born after January 16, 1971—were given the right to petition for permanent resident status. Children of second generation Koreans, however, were not covered by the 1965 agreement.

The Japanese government source stressed that any new means of identifying foreigners in Japan would be limited to third-generation Koreans with the question of its application to other foreign residents of Japan to be considered later.

He suggested that in order to avoid charges that Japan is not treating all foreigners equally, the entire system of fingerprinting may have to reconsidered in the future. A separate source Thursday, however, said the proposal for a "special family registry" is only one among several.

The unofficial negotiations between Tanino and Kim, which preclude a bilateral foreign ministers meeting Monday in Seoul, are scheduled to continue Friday.

Meanwhile, there is mounting public pressure in Seoul for South Korean President No Tae-u to cancel plans to visit Japan May 24-26 if progress is not made in the legal-status negotiations.

Working-Level Consultation Held With PLO

OW2504013590 Tokyo KYODO in English 2131 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japan pledged cooperation in the search for Middle East peace at the first working-level consultation between Japan and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) here Tuesday.

Japanese Government and PLO officials discussed Middle East peace and economic cooperation in the meeting at the Foreign Ministry. The PLO delegation is led by Ahmad Abu 'Ala, head of the PLO's Economic and Planning Department.

Japan showed appreciation for the PLO's realistic peace policy for the Middle East and pledged positive cooperation in the peace process, while the PLO indicated it holds positive expectations for Japan's role in bringing peace to the region.

The PLO expressed concerns about the sluggishness of the peace process, which it attributed to the unstable political situation in Israel. Japan also said it will continue to provide aid for Palestinians through international organizations.

Role in Palestinian Peace Urged

OW2604080590 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 2303 GMT 23 Apr 90

[From "Morning Wide" news program: Recorded interview with PLO Economic Planning Bureau Director Ahmad Abu 'Ala, head of a visiting PLO delegation; place, date not given]

[Text] The first working-level consultation between the Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO, and the Japanese Government opened in Tokyo yesterday. The consultation is in accordance with an agreement reached during Chairman 'Arafat's visit to Japan last October.

NHK has interviewed Abu 'Ala, director of the Economic Planning Bureau, who heads the PLO delegation, on the present Palestine situation and the PLO's wishes to the Japanese Government.

[Begin 'Ala recording in English with Japanese subtitles] The situation in the occupied territories is very complicated. It is difficult due to the Israeli practices and policies of repressing, detaining, arresting, and killing the Palestinian people. The losses are on both sides. Unfortunately, the United States is only compensating Israeli losses. They are not looking at, and have even decreased their assistance to, the other side. We hope that Japan also can find ways to give support to the Palestinian people directly through the Palestinian institutions in the occupied territories and through the PLO. We hope that the Japanese Government will make further efforts to push forward the peace process. [end recording]

Economic Planning Bureau Director 'Ala also highly rated a promise for an early dialogue with the Palestinians, made by former Islaeli Prime Minister Peres, who is in the process of organizing a new cabinet. He expressed his hopes, saying that the birth of the Peres administration is a chance for making peace.

Direct Economic Assistance Sought

OW2604113790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Ahmad Abu 'Ala, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Economic Affairs and Planning Department, said Thursday the PLO has called on Japan to offer bilateral as well as multilateral economic assistance to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a meeting with reporters at the National Press Club of Japan, Abu 'Ala also revealed the PLO has solicited Japan's support for a new economic development program for Palestinians in the occupied territories, including establishment of a development bank and vocational training center. "We expect good support and assistance from the Japanese Government and people to help alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people from the Israeli policies and practices," said the PLO official.

Abu 'Ala said the requests were put to Japan on Tuesday during the first ever Japan-PLO official-level consultations on cooperation in the political and economic fields. The four-hour meeting took place at the Foreign Ministry. The contacts, arose out of a meeting in Tokyo between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu last October.

Abu 'Ala, a member of 'Arafat's Fatah faction and the PLO's Central Committee, said the PLO hopes to begin building "the nucleus of future cooperation" with Japan in advance of the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

While welcoming the generosity of Japanese economic assistance so far to the Palestinian people, Abu 'Ala said the aid is extended exclusively through United Nations agencies. "We asked them about the possibility of channeling a part of that assistance directly to the Palestinian institutions in the occupied territories," he said.

But Foreign Ministry sources said the proposal would be "almost impossible" to agree to given the present criteria for Japanese economic assistance, since Japan does not recognize the PLO's self-declared State of Palestine.

Abu 'Ala told reporters the PLO also wants Japan's participation and support in the establishment of a development bank which would finance various projects in the occupied territories with internal and external funds. He said Israel has shut down Palestinian banks and replaced them with Israeli ones, which charge as much as 35 percent interest on loans and provide "no facilities for development."

Foreign Ministry sources also ruled out "bilateral" assitance in this sphere, but said they promised to "consider" the idea and expressed "understanding" of the Palestinian desire for such an institution.

Abu 'Ala said the PLO's new development program will promote projects aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in employment, food, clothing, and housing in the territories amid what he called a systematic Israeli attempt to undermine the Palestinian economy "as part of a policy of annexation."

He said Japan has confirmed that it will help establish a 200-bed hospital in the Gaza Strip to be built by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Ministry sources said they undertook to consider another PLO request for Japanese assistance in establishing a new vocational training center on the West Bank, but only under "multilateral" conditions.

Abu 'Ala said the PLO wants Japan to follow the example of the European Community (EC) in extending preferential tariff treatment to products imported from Palestinian enterprises in the occupied territories. The PLO official explained that the EC has "induced" Israel to allow for Palestinian exports to carry an official certificate of origin issued by the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce in the occupied territories. He said Japan has also promised to consider that request and that "they appreciate the importance of this issue."

While acknowledging there is presently no trade between Japan and the Palestinian people, Abu 'Ala said he hopes the situation will change "in the very near future." He said Palestinian oranges and grapefruit have been welcomed in European markets.

Questioned on Japan's trade with Israel, he brushed it off as "a Japanese affair"and added that Japan has the right to trade with any country it wishes.

The next round of PLO-Japan consultations will be in Tunis.

Officials later confirmed that Abu 'Ala also called on Japan to send its exports directly to the occupied territories, rather than having them pass through Israeli middlemen. Japanese officials acknowledged a similar request was made by 'Arafat to the European Community (EC) during his visit to Italy earlier this month as part of a PLO diplomatic offensive to keep the pressure on Israel to move toward a peace settlement.

Asked if 'Arafat may pay another visit to Japan on the occasion of the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Akihito on November 12, Abu 'Ala said, "It's certainly possible."

He said 'Arafat is now on a whirlwind tour of Middle Eastern countries to draw support for the holding of an Arab summit to deal with what he said was "a very dangerous situation" facing the region. "An explosion can be expected if international efforts are not concentrated to start the implementation of peace immediately," the PLO official warned.

As one sign of danger, he pointed to the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into Israel and the occupied territories and recent Israeli talk of a need for a "greater Israel" to accommodate the new arrivals. He said the Israelis have already confiscated more than 52 percent of the land they took over in the 1967 Mideast war, as a result of which the 750,000 people in the Gaza Strip are now forced to live within a 200-square-kilometer area.

Foreign Ministry officials said that in the meeting with Abu 'Ala on Tuesday, Japan offered "to do whatever it can to help" with regard to the situation, but did not elaborate.

Abu 'Ala said other precarious developments of late include U.S. congressional support for the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem, the "Israeli threat to attack Iraq," and the continued "collective punishment, abduction, beating, and shooting of the Palestinian people."

He said a confederation with Jordan could only be realized after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, not before.

JSP 'Could Win' Majority Under New System

OW2604000590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1422 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The Japan Socialist Party (JSP), the nation's largest opposition party, could win an absolute majority in the House of Representatives if elections for the lower house are carried out under a new system to be proposed by an advisory panel to the prime minister, according to a KYODO NEWS SERVICE projection.

The Election System Council will formally submit a recommendation on revision of the electoral system for the lower chamber to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu next Thursday. The advisory council earlier approved the reports of its two subcommittees recommending introduction of a new electoral system for the lower house, combining single-seat constituencies with a proportional representation system.

KYODO NEWS SERVICE made a trial calculation based on data from two previous Diet elections. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was victorious in the simultaneous elections for both houses of the Diet in 1986, but lost its majority in the 252-seat upper house, now dominated by the opposition, in the 1989 election.

The KYODO projection shows that on a similar showing as that in the 1989 election, the JSP would win an absolute majority of 343 seats under the revised system in the downscaled 501-seat lower house, while the LDP would garner only 115 seats. This would mean that the JSP could govern without the aid of the other opposition parties and would control all the lower house committees.

Based on showings similar to the 1986 elections, however, the LDP would win 398 seats, with the remaining 103 divided among the four main opposition parties.

Advisory Council Urges Major Election Reforms

OW2604123090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—The Election System Council, an advisory body to the prime minister recommended a switch Thursday to a mixture of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation for elections to the House of Representatives. It suggested that this should replace the current multiple-seat constituencies in the Diet's more powerful lower house.

The panel also recommended that the number of seats in the lower house be reduced by 11 to 501. Of these, 301 would be from single-seat electoral districts and the remainder from the proportional representation constituency.

Yosoji Kobayashi, president of the mass circulation newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, who heads the advisory body, submitted a final report on the proposed revision of the election system for the lower house to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the prime minister's official residence. Kaifu has repeatedly stressed his intention to carry out political and electoral reforms in order to eradicate money-power politics. But opposition parties criticized the proposal submitted by the council, saying the proposed new system would ensure that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) would stay in power permanently.

On the proportional representation system, the report recommended that the country be divided into 11 blocks, and that candidates be allowed to run in single-seat constituencies as well as in the proportional representation contest. Under the proposed proportional representation system, successful candidates would be selected from lists provided by political parties in proportion to the number of votes garnered by each party.

With regard to the single-seat constituencies, the council urged that the value of one vote in any electoral district should not exceed twice the value of a vote elsewhere and that an independent organization be established to rectify discrepancies in the value of votes in different constituencies every 10 years.

The panel did not make any specific proposals, however, on how to divide the country for the single-seat electoral districts. It also stopped short of proposing any reforms in the election system for the House of Councillors.

The 27-member council will start work early next month on drawing up measures to divide the nation into single-seat constituencies and to revamp the upper house election system.

As for reforms in the political fund-raising system, the report recommended that the number of political organizations not required to report the names of those contributing sums up to 1 million yen be limited to two per politician. All other political organizations should be required to report the names of donors of sums in excess of 10,000 yen, the council said.

The report said that political contributions by companies and labor unions should be permitted only to parties, and it expressed the hope that political funds of political parties will be provided by individuals instead of organizations in the future. The council proposed that punitive measures against violators of the political funds control law be strengthened.

The report said the panel hopes the Diet will take an appropriate step to make public the assets of all legislators.

On official monetary assistance to political parties, the report said it is appropriate to provide official financial aid for political parties and called on the government to consider legislative measures in this regard.

The report stressed the need to carry out radical electoral and political reforms in order to secure public trust in politics. The study began last year, when then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita revived the long-dormant council in a bid to regain public trust of politicians amid concern over the Recruit influence-peddling scandal.

The government and the LDP plan to immediately start work to enact laws necessary to implement the proposals submitted by the council. The procedures to draft the laws are expected to face rough going because strong opposition against electoral reform has been voiced even within the LDP, political analysts said.

Economic Agency Reports Economy Still Growing

OW2404021690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0007 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Recent economic data suggests that Japan's economy is still expanding despite a sharp plunge in stock prices and the yen's continuing weakness, the Government said in a monthly report Tuesday. The Economic Planning Agency said in the report that Japan's brisk economic growth is now in its 41st consecutive month, with active personal spending and private-sector capital investment acting as the two mainsprings.

Another month of expansion will tie the second-longest uninterrupted postwar growth of 42 months in 1958-61, the agency said.

The report called the growth in consumer spending "continuously steady" and said Japanese corporate spending on plant and equipment is "still accelerating." As evidence of the robust personal consumption, the report cited the continued growth in sales by major retailers during the past several months.

Despite a possibly negative impact of the recently volatile capital and financial markets, the agency's economists predicted the favorable trend in consumer behavior will not change substantially in the near future and will have little adverse effect on overall economic activity. The economists also pointed to high-paced housing construction over the past several months, stimulated in part by the prospect of a further rise in interest rates. The balance of orders for housing construction is expected to post a 30-40 percent year-on-year increase in the coming months, the agency predicted.

Against the backdrop of a bullish economic outlook, the number of newly hired employees is still on the rise, with labor shortages intensifying in the retail, wholesale, and services sectors, and unlikely to improve soon, the agency said.

The short-term business prospects of the country's major corporations showed their sales and profits will continue to grow, the report said. But some small- and medium-sized companies may be affected by the steady uptrend in the nation's interest rates, the economists predicted.

On the nation's trading activities, the report said exports are likely to maintain steady growth, while imports, mainly of manufactured products, are expected to increase gradually.

Drop in Lead Index Viewed

OW2504010990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japan's economy is continuing on its expansionary track despite lukewarm showings in the leading and coincident economic indicators for February, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said Tuesday.

Japan's leading indicator for February reached the so-called "boom or bust" line of 50 percent after falling to 40.9 percent the preceding month, an EPA official said. Any reading above 50 percent is seen as a sign of economic expansion in the near term, while one which falls short of 50 percent is seen as portending a slowdown, he said.

The coincident index, which reflects the current state of the economy, fell to 40 percent in February from the previous month's 50 percent, while the lagging indicator registered a healthy 85.7 percent, unchanged from the level recorded in January. The lagging index is said to mirror the state of the economy during the previous six months.

The EPA official attributed the weak showing of the leading index, which has fallen to or below the critical line of 50 for four straight months, to large inventories of goods and raw materials.

The leading indicator consists of 13 components, including new job offers, housing starts, the broadly defined money supply or M2 Plus certificates of deposit, and shipments of durable consumer goods.

"The index seems to indicate that the speed of the nation's economic expansion is slowing," the official said, adding that the slowdown is merely a phase in the nation's long period of expansion.

"A drop in the lead index for three consecutive months usually means the economy is reversing its uptrend. However, this three-month decline in the index does not signal an economic downturn but rather a slight slowdown in its expansion," he said.

The official pegged the poor showing of the 11-component coincident index to lower production, adding that the index for March could top the 50 mark if production picks up. "We'll have to watch for the readings of the indices for the upcoming months to get a better picture of economic trends," he said.

Stock, Yen Fall 'Unlikely' To Dampen Economy

OW2604110890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0737 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Thursday that the Japanese economy will remain on an expansionary track despite the so-called "triple losses"—falls in the yen's exchange value and in stock and bond prices. Mieno told a press conference that the central bank is not contemplating any change in its monetary policy, as prices remain stable.

Touching on monetary union between the two Germanys, Mieno said Japan will not follow suit, if the West German Bundesbank raises its base rate as a result of monetary integration. Monetary union between East and West Germany will not have any effect on Japan, he said.

Mieno went on to say that the triple losses, mainly a fall in stock prices, are 'unlikely' to discourage capital investment by Japanese companies, which had sufficient funds for capital investment before the stock crash this year.

Commenting on recent developments in current markets, Mieno described the yen's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar as relatively stable, and indicated that one reason for this stability has been the decline since the beginning of this year in overseas securities investment by Japanese institutions. Such investment is mainly in the United States.

Mieno said he will attend an interim committee meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington in early May. But he refused to speculate on whether top financial officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations will gather before the IMF meeting.

German Union 'Will Not Cause' Interest Rise

OW2604135390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno indicated Thursday that West Germany's interest rate hike because of its planned unification with East Germany will not cause the Japanese central bank to raise the official discount rate.

Mieno, speaking at a news conference, said he does not think monetary union between West and East Germany set for July 2 will restrict the BOJ's leeway in managing its own credit policy. His remarks were widely taken as a refutation of speculation that the two Germanys' social and economic union could force central banks of other major countries to raise their interest rates in a competitive way.

Mieno rejected media speculation that there is competition among major industrial nations for higher interest rates. He also discounted the possibility of coordinated rate hikes occurring in the near future because of the rapid changes taking place in the two Germanys.

He expressed the hope that German unification, including a one-for-one currency conversion scheme, between West and East Germany marks, would not cause confusion in capital and financial markets. Reflecting fears about possible interest rate hikes in some Western countries, including West Germany, market participants appear to be unsure about the direction of the dollar.

Many dealers said the market remains concerned about possible overseas interest rate increases, and they said this has caused sluggishness in recent currency transactions. Mieno said the currency market appears to have regained a degree of steadiness, but quickly added that it would be an exaggeration to say the market has been stabilized.

Asked about a widely expected meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations in Washington in early May, Mieno implied he knows nothing of plans for such a meeting. When the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is meeting in the U.S. capital, top G-7 financial officials usually take the opportunity to meet to discuss broad monetary topics, including currency issues.

Mieno said he is planning to attend the IMF's interim committee meeting, being held from May 2 to 8. He declined to comment on the possible contents of the meeting.

Despite a statement at the last G-7 meeting in Paris on April 7 expressing anxiety about the unabated decline in the value of the yen, the Japanese currency has continued its slide against the dollar. Market participants considered a flurry of central bank interventions after the Paris G-7 meeting to be half-hearted, leaving many traders convinced that the G-7 has little interest in propping up the sagging yen.

Mieno told reporters he would like to watch currency movements for a while. He said he expects the movements in the market to stabilize soon, pointing to recent changes in the flow of capital in the Japanese market.

Sanyo To Raise Foreign Chip Ratio to 15 Percent

OW2404083390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Osaka, April 23 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. said Monday it would raise its foreign-made semiconductor purchase ratio to 15 percent by the end of this year. The 1989 ratio for the firm, which bought foreign chips mainly from Motorola Inc. of the United States, was 11 percent.

Sanyo was appointed general agent at the end of last year by Micron Technology Inc., and its foreign chip purchase ratio reached 14 percent in the January-March period of 1990. Sanyo forecast that the 1990 annual ratio would probably be above 15 percent but that under present circumstances it would be extremely difficult for it to raise the ratio to 20 percent by 1991—the target set under the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement.

Among other major Japanese electrical manufacturers, Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and NEC Corp. have already brought their foreign chip ratio to the target level.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Corp. is aiming to achieve the target by July 1991 when the agreement is to expire.

However, since semiconductors for home appliances are not the forte of U.S. chip makers, it is considered here doubtful whether Sanyo Electric, a major maker of home appliances, may attain the goal by the target year.

Farm, Marine Imports' 1989 Increase Reported

OW2504112590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan's agricultural and marine imports rose 7.9 percent in 1989 from the year before to 51.1 billion dollars, topping the 50 billion dollar mark for the first time ever, according to figures compiled by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry. A ministry official attributed the jump to the high value of the yen which made imports cheaper, expansion of the Japaneses diet, and higher grain prices.

Imports from the United States increased to 16.3 billion dollars, up 9.1 percent from the preceding year. These accounted for 32 percent of Japan's total agriculture, forestry and marine product imports in 1989, up 0.4 percentage point from the previous year.

Imports of farm and wood products from the U.S. increased 9.7 percent and 24.4 percent, respectively, while marine product imports decreased 13.7 percent.

"These numbers should provide proof that we are working toward opening our markets," a ministry official said.

Agricultural imports, which rose 8.3 percent from 1988, accounted for 29.6 billion dollars of the total imports.

Wheat and corn imports grew 14.9 percent and 8.8 percent, respectively, due largely to higher prices following the dry spell suffered by U.S. farmers in 1988, the official said.

Beef imports soared 37.9 percent in 1989.

Imports of forestry products surpassed the 10 billion dollar mark, by rising 20.7 percent to 10.8 billion dollars from the preceding year.

Log and processed lumber imports rose 11.2 percent and 22.1 percent, respectively, while plywood surged 74.9 percent.

Marine product imports increased in volume but decreased in value by 3.5 percent to 10.5 billion dollars because of lower shrimp, salmon, and trout prices.

Japan's annual imports of farm, forestry and marine products amounted to some 25 billion dollars until 1985, when the value of the yen began appreciating.

Exports of these products, on the other hand, fell 0.4 percent in 1989 from the previous year to 2.4 billion dollars. Farm, wood and marine product imports surpassed exports by 48.6 billion dollars in 1989, following a trend which began in 1986, when imports topped exports by 27.6 billion dollars.

Mongolia

Reply to Opposition Ultimatum Demanded by 27 Apr

OW2504123690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The Mongolian Democratic Association and the Mongolian Democratic Party have delivered an ultimatum to the Presidium of the People's Great Hural, the Council of Ministers, and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee demanding a soonest creation of a provisional people's hural and extraordinary people's council with an equal participation of all political forces of the country. The ultimatum also contains the demand to withdraw the Mongolian People's Revolutionry Party Central Committee apparatus from the Government House and create conditions for normal functioning of the Mongolian Democratic Association, the Mongolian Democratic Party.

They demanded to get an official reply to their ultimatum publicly at the Central Sukhe Bator Square not later than April 27th.

The party and state leadership is blamed, frankly speaking, in suppressing the democratic revolution through [words indistinct] the right to introduce the state of emergecy in the country.

As is known, early May session of the People's Great Hural must (?pass) amendments into the Constitution of the country on instituting the presidency in Mongolia as well as Law on Political Parties.

State General Security Board Established

OW2504123390 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The reorganization of the Public Security Ministry resulted in the criticism, staff reduction, and economization of significant financal expenditure. This was said to a MONTSAME agency correspondent by newly appointed chief of the reorganized State General Security Board. The reorganized board will function within the competence of the state and strictly under the Constitution.

(?Halting) and prevention of crimes against the state is the main function of the board, noted the chief of the General State Security Board.

Council Acts To Help Agricultural Cooperatives

OW2504065190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The other day the Presidium of the Council of Ministers met and discussed the economic and financial state of agricultural cooperatives. It decided to cancel 45 million tugriks (?short) term credit of agricultural cooperatives [words indistinct] plan and prolong the term of payment of 89.4 million tugriks debt up to the year 2000 without interest.

This is destined to promote the activity of agricultural cooperatives, improve the living standards of agricultural coop members, and strengthen the material and technical bases of cooperatives.

National Union Formed in Bayan-Olgiy Aymag

OW2604055890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The process of formation of new public organizations continues in Mongolia. The other day we have been informed of the formation of an informal political-public organization, National Union, in western Mongolian Aymag Bayan-Olgiy, inhabited by the Kazakh nationality. It was set up with the aim of settling urgent ethnic as well as social-economic development issues, promoting the building of a humane democratic society in the country, consolidating the [words indistinct] law-governed state in Mongolia, and strengthening the unity of ethnic minorities.

Latest Statistics on Livestock Breeding Aired

OW2604081590 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] According to the Statistical Board of Mongolia, 56.4 percent of expectant mother animals have delivered their offsprings and 98.8 percent, or nearly 6.4 million young livestock, are being successfully raised in the Mongolian countryside. This year Mongolian herdsmen plan to raise from birth 9.6 million head of livestock.

North Korea

Armed Forces Continue To Mark 58th Anniversary

Choe Kwang Speech Marks Founding

SK2604000190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0858 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Speech by Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, KPA, at central report meeting at the 8 February Cultural Hall in Pyongyang on 24 April to mark the 58th KPA founding anniversary—live]

[Text] Comrades: Today, under the exhilarating circumstances in which all people have turned out with great hope and with belief in victory in the march of the first year of the 1990's by upholding the militant appeal of the party and leader, and are effecting new upsurges in socialist construction, we are significantly marking the 58th anniversary of the founding of the KPA.

On the anniversary of the founding of the KPA, the glorious revolutionary armed forces of our party, by being authorized by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, I, in the name of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], extend warm congratulations to the men and officers of our heroic people's army and people's security forces who are defending the defense line of the fatherland as an impregnable fortress with lofty loyalty to the party and leader and to the fatherland and people. [applause]

On this meaningful occasion when we are marking the anniversary of the founding of the army, I pay noble respect to those fallen patriots of the anti-Japanese revolution and those fallen martyrs of the people's army who sacrificed their precious lives for the independence of the fatherland, for the people's freedom and happiness, and for the party and revolution. [applause]

I also extend warm congratulations to those warriors of the anti-Japanese revolution, disabled veterans, and all other veterans who performed heroic feats during the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and during the great fatherland liberation war and who are still growing the flowers of the revolution in the socialist construction. [applause]

I also extend warm greetings to the people who are vigorously struggling to create the new speed of the nineties on all fronts of the socialist construction by highly upholding the call of the party and who love the people's army as their blood and help it with all their heart. [applause]

Comrades: Our people came to have their first revolutionary armed forces at the historic time when they were turning out for the noble cause of the fatherland's liberation along the new path of the revolution under the banner of the chuche idea. This was an event in the history of the nation which provided an opportunity of an epochal turn in developing our revolution and in shaping the destiny of our people.

On this meaningful occasion when we are marking the 58th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, we feel great pride and self-confidence in once again emotionally looking back at the path of the glorious struggle of our revolutionary armed forces and their immortal achievements, which have reliably guaranteed the victorious advance of the chuche revolutionary cause during a long period of time covering much more than half a century.

The revolutionary armed forces are a mighty component of the chuche revolutionary force, and how we build the revolutionary armed forces is one of the most important problems that determines the success or failure of the struggle of the working popular masses to realize the chajusong. In our country, the cause of building genuine revolutionary armed forces has been pioneered and brilliantly realized by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and it has been continuously strengthened and developed with the victorious advance of the chuche revolutionary cause. [applause]

As we recall, after the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea, those who were engaged in the independence movement organized armed units and struggled under the anti-Japanese banner for national salvation, but because they had no core of leadership available to them, because they were not based on broad masses, and because they were activated in a dispersed manner without correct strategy and tactics, they were to be crushed one by one by the Japanese imperialists' bestial attack. During the unfortunate time when the entire land of the country was immersed in a sea of blood because of the Japanese imperialists' vicious and barbarous suppression and the suffering of the nation was at its climax, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song determined that it was a strategic line of the Korean revolution to develop organized armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists based on his deep insight into the serious lesson learned in our country's anti-Japanese movement for national liberation, in which we had to experience failures and vicissitudes for lack of genuine revolutionary armed forces, and based on his deep insight into the demand of the development of our revolution, and put forth an outstanding policy on building genuine revolutionary armed forces of our people to realize it.

The policy on building regular revolutionary armed forces capable of crushing the antirevolutionary armed forces with an organized armed struggle was an independent policy on building armed forces which elucidated anew the problem of revolutionary armed forces of the working class in the revolution for national liberation for the country's sovereignty, and it was a wise policy that firmly guaranteed the decisive victory in the struggle for national liberation from colonialization. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who put forth independent policy on building the army and energetically pushed ahead with the work to build regular revolutionary armed forces, organized armed ranks based on the firm foundation he had prepared politically and militarily on which he had brought up the core elements of the revolutionary armed forces, prepared arms and equipment, and built up military experience and mass base, and finally proclaimed to the entire world the founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA] on 25 April 1932. [applause]

The founding of the KPRA was a noble fruition of the outstanding leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who energetically carried out the struggle for the formation of the anti-Japanese armed ranks in the face of all difficulties and adversity, and the fruition of his original policy of building revolutionary armed forces, and it was the magnificent birth of the genuine chuche-type revolutionary armed forces in our country. [applause]

With the founding of the KPRA, our people were able to victoriously wage the struggle, on a new higher stage, for the independence of the fatherland and the liberation of the people with a genuine revolutionary army for the first time in history. This was the very moment when the glorious history of our revolutionary armed forces began.

To strengthen and develop the revolutionary armed forces, which were founded during the time of the anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation, into modern regular armed forces was an essential requisite to building a complete independent sovereign state after the liberation, and it was an important problem that became all the more essential in the light of the situation that prevailed in our country then.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, based on his noble achievements and abundant experience in building the revolutionary armed forces which he had accomplished in the blaze of the stern anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, strengthened and developed the KPRA into the KPA, the modern regular armed forces with all the services and branches of armed forces, and advanced the chuche cause of building armed forces to a new higher stage. As the cause of building regular armed forces was realized by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our country was able to highly demonstrate its dignified appearance as an independent sovereign state with mighty self-defending national defense capabilities, and our people came to have a firm military guarantee that they are able to dependably defend the fatherland and the revolutionary gains from the infringement by imperialism and all types of class enemies and to complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end. [applause]

Our People's Army is the genuine army of the people and of the revolution which makes the great chuche idea its guiding policy, defends the security of the socialist fatherland and the freedom and happiness of the people, and guarantees our revolutionary cause with armed forces, and it is the army of the leader and the army of the party which makes it its revolutionary duty to struggle to realize the leader's idea and the party's leadership. [applause]

Our revolutionary armed forces have, over the last period, pushed their way through the stern and arduous road of struggle, honorably defended their sublime mission, and built up immortal achievements that will shine forever in the history of the fatherland. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The immortal exploits registered for the fatherland and the people by the KPRA and the People's Army, its direct successor, will shine forever with the brilliant history of the revolutionary struggle of our party and our people.

Our revolutionary armed forces, which were born amid the storm of the anti-imperialist revolution, had to carry out a bloody battle against the most outrageous and strongest imperialist aggressors from their first step. They had to break through the arduous and rugged path of struggle.

The anti-Japanese armed struggle, which our revolutionary armed forces recorded in the first chapter of their glorious, militant path, was an arduous revolutionary battle which was carried out for a long time under unprecedentedly arduous conditions. This was a glorious revolutionary struggle which pioneered a new path in the anti-colonialist national liberation struggle under the banner of the chuche idea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, always standing in the chuche-oriented position during the entire period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, uniquely resolved all problems raised in carrying out the armed struggle and overall Korean revolution, and set up a Mt. Paektu secret camp—a central guiding stronghold of our revolution in Mt. Paektu areas—and organized and carried out active military and political activities in broad areas within and outside country. Thus, he enabled the KPRA to give a severe blow to the enemy everywhere and to fully demonstrate its militant might.

Numerous operations and battles, victoriously organized and carried out by the KPRA in many areas within the country and in Northeast China including Pochonpo and Musan area, were brilliant victories of outstanding military strategy, tactics and the chuche-oriented fighting method of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. These victories clearly demonstrated that the revolutionary armed forces of an independent people who courageously rose in the sacred anti-imperialist national liberation struggle with arms in their hands under the banner of the chuche idea have indomitable might. [applause]

Members of the KPRA, who had to break through a bloody road with fierce combat and arduous march during the days of the anti-Japanese struggle, always defended and protected the headquarters of the revolution politically, ideologically and at the risk of their lives by cherishing the burning loyalty to the great leader.

They implemented headquarters' orders and directives unconditionally and thoroughly.

Even under the difficult circumstances in which there was neither a rear area of the nation nor support of regular armed forces, they waged a bloody battle against the enemy while solving all problems, including the problem of weapons and provisions, by themselves under the active support and encouragement of the popular masses. Cherishing firm faith and shouting, "Coward, you may go if you want. We will safeguard the Red Banner," they heroically fought, overflowing with conviction and optimism, for over 15 years.

A number of slogan-bearing documents and historic relics about the struggle of the KPRA members, which were discovered in the northern border areas and in other broad areas within the nation, clearly showed that the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters vigorously waged activities like a phoenix until the day of national liberation to accomplish the chuche revolutionary line put forward by the great leader by assuming the entire areas of the nation as the stage of their struggle while crossing and breaking through numerous deadlines.

Amid the unprecedentedly arduous hardship and difficulties, the KPRA wrote imperishable writings in huge trees in every area where its members stayed during the days of struggle. These writings reflected the burning loyalty to the leader they deeply cherished in their hearts, the spirit of their endless dedication to the fatherland and revolution and their indomitable revolutionary spirit. Even today when a long time has passed, these writings show how lofty a height their conviction in Korea's bright future had reached, thus causing deep emotions in all the people. These writings remained as an everlasting brilliant historic testimony. [applause]

During the entire period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the KPRA waged a common struggle against the Japanese imperialists shoulder to shoulder with the outstanding sons and daughters of the Chinese people by upholding the banner of proletarian internationalism. The KPRA also struggled to protect the Soviet Union, the first socialist country in the world, with armed forces.

Under the outstanding and tested military and political leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the KPRA adorned the whole course of the anti-Japanese armed struggle with heroic feats, defeated the Japanese imperialist aggressors and brilliantly accomplished the historic cause of national liberation. [applause]

In the course of the arduous revolutionary struggle against the Japanese imperialists, unity of the revolutionary ranks with the leader as its center was achieved, the fine example of loyalty of the Korean communists, who upheld the leader based on revolutionary faith and principle, was created, and our party's glorious revolutionary tradition was firmly established. [applause]

Thanks to the victory of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the revolutionary task of national liberation in our country was brilliantly achieved and our people's struggle to realize the cause of independence entered into a rewarding historic stage when we built a new society by grasping sovereignty in our hands.

If the anti-Japanese armed struggle is described as a unprecedentedly arduous and long guerrilla warfare for the first rank of our revolutionary armed forces to fight against the most outrageous and strongest imperialist enemy, the fatherland liberation war can be termed as a fierce modern war for our revolutionary regular armed forces to fight against the allied imperialist forces led by the U.S. imperialists.

Personally bearing the heavy burden of war at a grave time when the nation's destiny was to be decided, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song organized and vigorously mobilized the entire party, the entire army and all people to the sacred war to crush the enemy. With unique strategy and operational tactics and outstanding alchemy, he led the People's Army to certain victory.

The officers and men of our People's Army, firmly believed that as long as there is the wise leadership of the party and the leader they would be ever victorious and implemented the Comrade supreme commander's strategic ideas and policies unconditionally and thoroughly. They seriously defeated the enemies in succession by utilizing the outstanding chuche-oriented tactics elucidated by the respected leader.

Cherishing ardent loyalty to the party and the leader, love for the nation and the people, lofty class awareness and the sense of burning hatred against the enemy, they courageously fought by demonstrating the mass heroism and the spirit of peerless dedication in the fierce battlefield. By waging bloody battles on the ground, in the air and on the sea of the fatherland, which go beyond the imagination of human kind, they created miracles unprecedented in history of war. [applause]

The distinguished merits registered on various battlefields by a number of famed and nameless heroic fighters, who opened a course for their unit to advance by defending the enemy's fire with their own breasts, who caused a mass death of the enemy by making their bodies a human bomb and who defended every hill and even inches of the nation's land with their blood by unhesitatingly dedicating their youth and lives, will be recorded forever inhistory of our people's struggle for national liberation. [applause]

During the days of arduous war when all the people rose in the struggle as one combat rank, the people in the rear area, not yielding even amid a sea of fire made by the enemy's continued bombing and artillery firing, actively contributed to victory of war by vigorously waging the work of war-time production and relief work for the frontlines.

Our people, who rose in the sacred struggle to safeguard the independence of the nation and sovereignty of the people from the imperialists' armed invasion, had the active support and encouragement of socialist countries including the Soviet Union and from several hundred million people of the world. In particular, the Chinese people sent volunteers under the banner of "Resist America and Aid Korea" [hangmi wonjo], and sincerely helped our people's revolutionary struggle.

Our people are always grateful to these friends for their sincere support and encouragement extended to us at a time of gravest trial. We will never forget this. [applause]

Under the outstanding leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our people and the People's Army bravely overcame the stern trials of war and inflicted humiliating defeat on the U.S. imperialist aggressors who had boasted that they were the strongest in the world, winning a shining victory in the Fatherland Liberation War. [applause]

Our people's historic victory in the Fatherland Liberation War was a great demonstration of the invincible might of our people and the People's Army firmly rallied around the party and the leader, and because of this great victory, our people and the People's Army are called the heroic people and the heroic army that smashed the myth of the U.S. imperialists' power for the first time in the world and started the beginning of their downfall. [applause]

After the war as well, the People's Army crushed the enemy's continuous maneuvers of aggression and war provocation every step of the way, dependably defended the security of the fatherland and the people, and firmly ensured with armed forces the victorious advance of the revolution and construction.

During the difficult period when the maneuvers of the enemies within and without were intensified and the traitors to the revolution challenged the party, the People's Army defended to the death the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song [kyongaehanun kimilsong tongji], resolutely crushed the enemy's repeated reckless military provocations, and firmly defended the party's cause, honorably carrying out its noble mission as the leader's army and the party's army. [applause]

Our People's Army, which struggles for the independent right and the interest of the working popular masses, not only brilliantly carried out its duty of defending the fatherland, but participated in the construction work for the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people, making great contributions to it. The soldiers of our People's Army, inheriting the noble tradition of the members of the KPRA who did their best to help the revolutionary masses, including the people residing in their guerrilla bases, with their lives, gave their noble share of labor to the construction work to create the happy and civilized lives of our people during the entire period of the new fatherland construction, postwar reconstruction, and socialist construction.

In particular, during the days of a great new march in which the cause of modeling the entire society on the chuche idea was being accelerated, our People's Army brilliantly completed many major construction projects of socialist construction in response to the call of the party, contributing greatly to increasing the wealth for the bright lasting future of the country. The labor exploits of the soldiers of our People's Army are vividly engraved in all the great monumental creations of the era of the WPK, such as the construction of the magnificent and colorful Pyongyang Subway, many plants, enterprises, coal mines, mines, the world-noted Sohae lockgate, the Sunchon Vinalon Complex, the Pyongyang-Kaesong expressway, the 1,000-ri waterway, the Kwangbok Street, and the Chongchun Street. All these creations built by the soldiers of the People's Army upholding the party's idea of great construction clearly show the noble trait of the genuine revolutionary army and people's army that not only defend the fatherland with its blood, but creates the happiness of the people with its sweat. The fatherland and the people will never forget the labor exploits of the soldiers of the People's Army who freshen the features of the fatherland demonstrating their unequalled devotion and collective heroism. [applause]

The proud road of struggle trodden by our revolutionary armed forces is the history of heroic exploits in which they ensured the party's revolutionary cause firmly with armed forces and have faithfully carried out their sublime mission and role in the sacred struggle for the liberation of the fatherland and the happiness of the people. [applause]

We have great pride when we recall the glorious path of our revolutionary armed forces and their proud achievements because the endless loyalty to the party and to the leader is teeming in all ranks of the People's Army.

The loyalty to the leader, which was built up by young communists when the cause of the founding of the army was first pioneered, was comprehensively and highly demonstrated within the ranks of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army during the period of arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. Today this loyalty has become a firm tradition and the life of our People's Army which cannot be destroyed by anything. [applause]

Our revolutionary armed forces, which have been disciplined and tested politically, ideologically and in terms of military technology amid the flames of the long, arduous revolutionary struggle, have entered onto a new stage of their development through the struggle for chuche-orientation of the entire Army and have more clearly shown their revolutionary trait as the tenacious defender of our people's cause for independence—our party's cause.

All soldiers are filled with the burning resolution to fight to the end for the victory of the chuche revolutionary cause by following the party's leadership, being firmly armed with the chuche idea—our party's revolutionary idea.

The revolutionary outlook on the leader has been firmly established within the ranks of the People's Army. The noble fine custom of unity between superiors and inferiors and unity between the Army and civilians is overflowing in these ranks. This is indeed political and moral superiority which can be possessed only by a revolutionary army—the genuine People's Army. These are the very sources of might with which our People's Army can win in the fight against any aggressor. [applause]

According our party's military line for self-defense, together with the work of making the entire army composed of cadre members and the modernization of the entire army, the work of arming all the people and the work of fortifying the entire nation have been vigorously pushed ahead. As a result, the defense system by all people with the People's Army as its core has been firmly established.

With great pride, today we can say that we have provided self-defensive armed forces which can smash any aggressor and can reliably defend the socialist fatherland and revolutionary gains. [applause]

Under the acute situation in which the imperialists' maneuvers of aggression and war provocation are constantly perpetrated, our people are successfully carrying out the cause of socialist construction while firmly ensuring the security of the fatherland. This is entirely thanks to the fact that our people have such strong revolutionary armed forces as the People's Army.

Indeed, it is the great honor and pride of our people to have the People's Army, which is endlessly loyal to the party and to the leader, while tenaciously defending and protecting the chuche revolutionary cause. [applause]

All proud exploits and achievements made by our revolutionary armed forces in the glorious history are the victory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's self-defense military idea and a noble fruition of the outstanding and tested leadership of the party and the leader. [applause]

On this significant occasion of marking the 58th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, all the people and soldiers of the KPA offer the greatest honor and warmest gratitude, with their inexhaustible reverence and burning loyalty, to the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song who founded the genuine revolutionary armed forces of the working class, defeated the U.S. and Japanese imperialism, thereby saving the nation's destiny, defended the independence of the fatherland, and wisely led the party, the people, and the army, turning our country into an independent, self-reliant, self-defending socialist country. [applause]

Comrades: The People's Army is our party's revolutionary armed forces, and the People's Army is assigned with the sacred duty of dependably ensuring with the armed forces the struggle of our party and the people to realize the reunification of the fatherland and the modeling of the entire society on the chuche idea. Today's situation, in which the challenge of the class enemies to our revolutionary cause is becoming more intense with each passing day, urgently requires that we further strengthen our revolutionary armed forces.

We should strengthen the ranks of the People's Army politically, ideologically, and in terms of military technology, thoroughly establish chuche, and firmly ensure the party's leadership in all fields of military work and military activities so that the entire army can vigorously accelerate modeling the entire society on the chuche idea.

The party's leadership for the People's Army is the basic guarantee for all the victories of the People's Army. The mission of the People's Army to protect and defend the revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader and complete it from generation to generation can only be realized under the party's leadership. Only when we have the strong revolutionary army endlessly loyal to the party's leadership, can we firmly defend the socialist fatherland and the revolutionary gains from the enemy's obstructions, overcome all trials, and victoriously carry out the cause of socialist construction.

The People's Army should thoroughly realize the party's leadership in all fields of its activities, share its destiny eternally with the party, have a firm faith that it will do anything decided by the party, and establish the revolutionary ethos of carrying out all tasks assigned by the party to the end without any conditions.

The People's Army should, in the future as well, as it did in the past, defend to the death with its life its leader, its party, its system, and its fatherland as our party's revolutionary armed forces, firmly defend the singlehearted unity of the party, the people, and the People's Army generation to generation, and solidify it as firm as a rock. [applause]

While intensifying the indoctrination of loyalty in the People's Army and vigorously accelerating revolutionization, we should thoroughly implement the party's self-defending military line and (?five-point) training policy, and ensure that all the soldiers are firmly prepared to be fighters armed with high loyalty, resolute revolutionary spirit, and courage of one-a-match-for-one hundred under the slogan "Let us all become the Kim Chin and Yi Su-pok of the nineties."

Officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces and members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards should always keep high revolutionary vigilance while rejecting even the slightest degree of indolence and laxity, should keenly watch the moves of the enemies, and, thus, should make every combat mobilization posture so as to cope with any unexpected situation. Unity between the army and the people is a lofty and fine custom that has been inherited since the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. Soldiers of the People's Army should defend the people's lives and property, sharing their joys and sorrows with the people, at any time and any place, and the people should highly display the traditional custom of loving the People's Army like their brothers and sincerely helping it.

Vigorously accelerating socialist economic construction is precisely a most important task assigned to our party and people. We should vigorously continue the struggle to implement the militant task elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address of this year and the decision of the 17th plenary session of the 6th party Central Committee and, thus, should effect a revolutionary upsurge once again in socialist construction.

All of the working people should vigorously wage the struggle for increasing production and for practicing conservation with the same spirit and mettle that were displayed in the period of the great upsurge of Chollima in the past and should create a new speed of the nineties in all sectors and units. Thus, they should demonstrate the dignified appearance of the socialist fatherland of chuche. Performing the mission of defending the fatherland and the construction battle alike, officers and men of the People's Army should perform constant labor exploits in major plant construction sites and, thus, should brilliantly carry out the honorable mission as the defenders of the fatherland and as the pioneers of the people's happiness.

Putting an end to the split of the nation and reunifying the country is the unanimous and long-cherished desire of all of the Korean people and a most urgent task of our party and people. Today, our compatriots, irrespective of whether they live in the North or the South, are burning with the single desire for national reunification and are filled with the unshaken will and faith to achieve national reunification without fail. We have the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity, a grand program for national reunification, which the North and the South jointly agreed and declared. We have also the policy of founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo, which is the embodiment of the three principles and which is a reasonable policy for national reunification.

The WPK and the government of the Republic have made consistent efforts for the realization of our fair, aboveboard, and realistic reunification policy. In recent years alone, we have put forward a proposal for establishing a nuclear-free peace zone on the Korean peninsula, a proposal for holding talks between the persons in military authority of the North and the South, the four principles for all-inclusive peace guarantee, and many other proposals. In recent years, proceeding from the purpose of providing a breakthrough for the realization of disarmament and of creating an atmosphere of trust, we also took the epochal steps of not only unilaterally reducing 100,000 military troops, but also withdrawing 150,000 soldiers from the frontline and outposts and mobilizing them to socialist economic construction. All of this vividly shows our sincerity to alleviate tension on the Korean peninsula and to create an atmosphere favorable for its peaceful reunification.

To bring about a turning point in the solution of the reunification question, in particular, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward in his New Year's address of this year an epochal proposal for removing a concrete wall in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line and realizing free travel and total openness between the North and the South. This reunfication proposal is a most just and realistic proposal which reflects the ardent desire for reunification of the entire nation and the demands of the present era in which the waves of independence are flowing dynamically. Therefore, it has won positive support and welcome among the progressive people of the world, let alone among all of the Korean people.

Despite our consistent and earnest efforts our country's reunification has not been achieved yet. This is closely related to the maneuvers of splittists at home and abroad to perpetuate the division of Korea. The United States and the persons in authority of South Korea have viciously schemed not only to fix the division of Korea by fabricating two Koreas and rejecting the ardent desire of all compatriots for reunification, but also to make South Korea a permanent colonial and military base and a forward nuclear base of the U.S. imperialists.

The persons in authority of South Korea, instead of accepting our new epochal proposal for reunification with sincerity, have thrown a wet blanket over the people's ardent desire for reunification by waging a large-scale anticommunist and anti-Republic commotion. They have gone so far as to perpetrate the far-fatched assertion of even denying the existence of the concrete wall which has been officially recognized by world's people. This is an intolerable act which mocks the entire nation and is a dirty and nasty act which reveals again their brazen-faced nature.

That the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique staged the criminal "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise on the Korean peninsula, running counter to the trend of the times and to the aspirations of the people who want detente and peace, is not only an open challenge to our Republic and our people, but also shows that the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique are not interested in peace in Korea and its reunification. Recently, the U.S. ruling circles have been making violent remarks that the Korean peninsula is the most volatile region on the earth today and that a war may break out in Korea at any moment. This is by no means accidental.

In fact, while clamoring about detente and disarmament in Europe and the rest of the world, the United States has concentrated means of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula to escalate tension there and has moved to perfect the tripartite military alliance among the United States, Japan, and South Korea. Thus, the United States has shown ill-boding moves. Continuously introducing up-to-date means of attack into South Korea where some 1,000 nuclear weapons have already been deployed, staging a large-scale nuclear war exercise every year, and, thus, making military tension more acute prove that the U.S. imperialists are precisely the enemies of peace, war maniacs, and the ringleaders who obstruct our country's reunification. Nevertheless, while babbling about the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea as if their presence there were for deterring a war and were contributing to guaranteeing peace, the South Korean puppet clique not only has begged for the permanent stationing of the U.S. forces in South Korea, but has also introduced new-type military equipment there on a continuous basis. Thus, the puppet clique has been mad over the maneuvers for war.

The fourth tunnel incident, that the South Korean puppet clique fabricated, is nothing but a smear drama designed to invent an excuse against us. As to the fourth tunnel incident, it is a political smear plot concocted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique to justify their splittist maneuvers against reunification and to extricate themselves from the ever-increasing crisis in their colonial and fascist rule. It is also a product of their policy of confrontation and strategy for northward invasion.

The South Korean puppet clique has extremely aggravated the situation by staging a large-scale nuclear war exercise against us in collusion with the U.S. imperialists on the one hand and is viciously schemeing to suppress and obliterate the reunification and democratic forces by forming an alliance of conservative forces in the merger of the three parties on the other hand. Under the manipulation of the U.S. imperialists the No Tae-u military fascist ring and the ultra-rightist conservative reactionary forces are frantically running amok to patch up the crisis in their colonial, military, fascist, and dictatorial rule, to realize the pro-U.S. military and fascist group's plot for long-term seizure of power, and to block and suppress the struggle of the democratic forces through the so-called merger of the three political parties and realignment of the political circles. Thus, South Korea has today become a zone where human rights have been miserably trampled underfoot.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique should look straight at the trend of the times and should act discreetly. At the same time, they should clearly know that they can gain nothing from their maneuvers for war. The United States should withdraw U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea without delay and should take hands off the domestic affairs of Korea. The persons in authority of South Korea should immediately stop the anti-Republic commotion in making confrontation and tension within the nation more acute and should sincerely respond to our proposal for pulling down the concrete wall and for realizing free travel and total openness between the North and the South.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique persistently force a war upon us while turning away from our repeated warnings and our people's unanimous desire to adorn the nineties as the era of reunification, our people and the People's Army will rise up and fight as one for the honor of chuche Korea, heroic Korea, will mercilessly annihilate and mop up the enemies and, thus, will resolutely defend the sacred territory of the fatherland and our socialist system. [applause] Our people will check and frustrate splittists' maneuvers amid the support and encouragement of the progressive people of the world, who treasure justice and peace, and with united strength of the entire nation and, thus, will achieve the historic cause of national reunification without fail. [applause] We should consolidate unity and solidarity with the international revolutionary forces in the struggle against the aggression of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and for the country's sovereignty and peace. We will constantly strengthen unity and militant solidarity with the international revolutionary forces in the future, too. [applause]

Our party's rervolutionary cause is just, and a bright prospect has unfolded before our people. Our people and the People's Army who struggle for the just cause under the wise leadership of the party and the leader are always ever-victorious and invincible. [applause] Let all of us firmly rally around the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and vigorously struggle for the complete victory of socialism, for the acceleration of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, and for the consummation of the revolutionary cause of chuche. [applause] Long live Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people. [applause and shouts of hurrah] Long live the glorious WPK, the organizer and guide of all victories of the Korean people. [applause, shouts of hurrah]

Kim Il-song Congratulates Unit

SK2504224090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2222 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today visited unit No. 837 of the Korean People's Army and congratulated its officers and men on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the founding of the heroic KPA.

He was enthusiastically welcomed by the soldiers of the unit.

He was accompanied by Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, member of the party Central Military Committee and secretary of the Central Committee of the party; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; and Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee.

He was greeted on the spot by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, member of the party Central Military Committee and minister of People's Armed Forces; Comrade Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army; KPA Generals Kim Pong-yul and Kim Kwang-chin and Colonel General Yi Pong-won, members of the WPK Central Committee; generals and officers of the KPA and commanding officers of the unit.

He was presented with a bunch of flowers carrying the boundless reverence of the entire officers and men of the People's Army.

A welcome ceremony took place at the unit.

After the national anthem was played, he reviewed a guard of honour of the three services of the Korean People's Army.

He waved to the enthusiastically cheering armymen and warmly congratulated the officers and men of the People's Army on the 58th birthday of the KPA.

He acquainted himself with the military training of the soldiers of the unit each of whom equals a hundred foes and went round to see combat and technical equipment.

He expressed great satisfaction with the fact that the People's Army is creditably discharging its honorable duty and mission as reliable defender of our party's cause, the cause of socialism and gave highly important instructions which well serve as the guideline in further strengthening the People's Army as invincible revolutionary armed forces.

He, together with the members of the Presidium of the Political bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea who accompanied him, posed for a photograph with officers and men of the unit.

People Visit KPA Units

SK2604051490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—People's delegations visited units of the Korean People's Army [KPA] which firmly defend the motherland on the 58th anniversary of the founding of the heroic KPA, the revolutionary armed forces of our party.

The soldiers significantly greeting the birthday of the KPA which was founded by the great leader President Kim Il-song and is led by our party, warmly welcomed the people's delegations which visited their units with warm kindred feelings.

Rallies were held at the units to convey gifts of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to them on the 58th founding anniversary of the heroic people' army.

Heads of the people's delegations handed the gifts to the units at the rallies.

The soldiers vowed to more resolutely defend the party and the leader politically and ideologically and with their lives and reliably guarantee the revolutionary cause of chuche with the force of arms under the slogan "Let us all become Kim Chins and Yi Su-poks of the 1990s!"

People's delegations attended various functions at the units and congratulated the soldiers on the significant army day, fully showing the traditional traits of unity between the army and the people.

Army's Participation in Construction Praised

SK2504223590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2157 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—The soldiers of the Korean People's Army participating in socialist construction are performing feats of labor.

The soldiers of the People's Army who are mobilized for the construction of the capital are these days increasing the speed of construction 1.7 times in the construction of the Naknang Boulevard 120 metres wide, housing construction in the Kwangbok Street and Sokbong-tong area and the building of the three revolutions exhibition and the Nungra Suspension Bridge.

A blasting for blowing up 800,000 tons of earth was successfully carried out in the construction site of the Naknang Boulevard and hundreds of cubic metres of earth are carried every day.

The ground-digging project planned this month has already been completed for the construction of the three revolutions exhibition.

The armymen in charge of housing construction are stepping up the structural assembling of a 30 storied apartment house in the block No. 7 of the Kwangbok Street after finishing the structural assembling of apartment houses for some 300 families in Sokbong-tong area.

The feats of labor are also reported in the second-stage construction of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex and the construction of the Sariwon Potassic Fertilizer Complex, Pyongyang-Huichon Express Highway, tideland reclamation, the building of a power plant and all other projects undertaken by People's Army soldiers.

Building Supply Workers' Convention Held

SK2604051890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—A national conference of active workers of the building-materials industry was held in pyongyang over April 24-25.

The conference discussed measures to send larger quantities of quality building-materials to the socialist construction sites through a vigorous drive for increased production and economy.

The reporter and many speakers pointed out that under the wise guidance of the party and the leader, the building-materials industry has grown up to be an independent and modern industry which satisfies the increasing need of the national economy for building-materials with home materials and displays its might in guaranteeing the nation's construction projects of eternal value.

They stressed the need to produce larger quantities of cement, fire-proof material, glass goods, metal building-materials, furniture and fittings and send them to the construction sites of major projects, houses for 50,000 families in Pyongyang and dwelling houses throughout the country.

They called for expanding the varieties of plastic and chemical building-materials such as wallpaper, pipes and water-proof paper and increasing their production to satisfy the growing cultural needs of the people.

Daily Urges Celebration of May Day in South

SK2604101590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article to the upcoming centenary of May Day, the international holiday of the world working class.

Recalling that the workers in the Northern half of Korea called upon the South Korean workers to struggle to be allowed to celebrate the centenary of May Day this year as a common festivity of the workers in both parts of the country, the article says this is a reflection of the ardent desire and aspiration to rejoin class bonds between the workers in the North and the South and pave the way for national unity and reunification, and it is entirely justifiable either from the national point of view or from the working-class mission.

The South Korean workers who are vigorously fighting to win their vital rights and democratic liberties have in the past struggled to celebrate May Day.

However, the No Tae-u military fascist clique are not only blocking the workers from celebrating May Day but also making desperate attempts to destroy the South Korean labour movement itself. A graphic example of this is the puppets' fascist action against a peaceful sit-in strike of the unionists of the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) these days.

This clearly shows that South Korea which is under the U.S. imperialist colonial yoke is, indeed, a most fascist, repressive society, a wasteland of democracy where people's independent right and even elementary democracy are ruthlessly violated.

The No group's desperate suppression of the South Korean labour movement at the point of the bayonet can never be pardoned.

The day should come when the South Korean workers not only celebrate May Day, the traditional holiday of the world working class, but also enjoy it with the workers in the Northern half of our republic, their flesh and blood and fellow countrymen, and their closest class brothers.

The South Korean workers will surely bring the day when they will celebrate May Day, the international holiday of the world working class, smashing the No group's repressive moves by their united struggle.

International Team To Inspect Wall Arrives

SK2604104390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—An international fact-finding team arrived here today to ascertain whether the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique exists, or not.

The fact-finding team consists of its head Willy Burgeon, member of the Bureau of the Belgian Socialist Party and chairman of the Vallon District Committee of Belgium; and its members Roger Dafflon, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Switzerland and ex-mayor of Geneva; retired Greek General Yeoryios pattas, president of the Committee for Struggle Against Foreign Military Bases; and Guy Dupre, secretary general of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea.

It was met at the airport by Yi Mong-ho, chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and officials of the Korean committee for Solidarity with World Peoples.

Kim Il-song's Family Praised in South

SK2604102790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—The South Korean people pay high tributes to the glorious revolutionary history of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

An intellectual surnamed Yi in Seoul had this to say:

General Kim Il-song was born into an ardent patriotic family which fought for the country and the nation generation after generation.

All his family members—his parents, grandparents, brothers, uncle and his mother's family—are patriots and independence movement fighters who fought against Japanese imperialism.

There is no other leader born into such a family in the world.

A young intellectual surnamed Kim in Pusan said:
If we are to know history, we must study the great revolutionary history of General Kim Il-song before anything else.

His revolutionary history is a glorious one for the liberation and prosperity of our nation and a great one for human liberation.

A worker surnamed Kim in Yongdo District, Pusan, said that the family of respected General Kim Il-song is a patriotic family from which our nation and the world people should learn.

Unionists 'Vow' To Keep Up Protests

SK2504120390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—More than 4,000 unionists of the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) in South Korea who entered the 13th day of their struggle for the resignation of the "government"-installed president and the democratization of broadcasting held an emergency general meeting on April 24 and denounced the fascist clique's scheme to suppress their protests with police force, according to a report.

At the meeting they vowed to keep up protesting till their demand for the resignation of the venal president has been met.

The "emergency measure committee of KBS employees" warned that if the "government"-installed president do not resign within this week they would conduct a people's movement and a grand peace march for his resignation and the democratization of broadcasting from next week, in solidarity with democratic forces.

In another development some 100 unionists of radio christian started a sit-in in support of the "KBS" unionists and then, on April 24, members of the "MBC (Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation) emergency measure committee" started an indefinite all-night sit-in.

'General Strike' by Hyundai Workers Threatened

SK2504122290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Upwards of 20,000 workers of the Hyundai heavy industries in Ulsan, South Korea, continue the slowdown they started Monday, according to a report.

The unionists at negotiation with the management of the comprador company Tuesday afternoon warned again that they would go over to a general strike if their two-point demand—the withdrawal of the suit against the vice-chairman of the labor union and fulfilment of the collective contract—was not met.

The management, far from satisfying the just demand of the workers, threatened that it would file criminal complaints with the fascist authorities against the unionists, alleging that it is "obstruction to business" and violation of the "law on the arbitration of labor disputes."

The fascist clique in conspiracy with the management posted 900 police of six companies around the company and is making a fuss of check and search under the pretext of "blocking the unionists' contact with an outside force".

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Assails 'Team Spirit'

SK2604022590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korea 2100 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Statement issued by the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman on 24 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Statement of the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK:

The United States and the South Korean authorities this year, too, staged the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises, in defiance of strong denunciation and opposition by the entire Korean people and the world peace-loving people.

An acute confrontation and growing tensions like on the eve of a war are persisting on the Korean peninsula, instead of reconciliation and detente, due to 15 years of ceaseless war maneuvers.

The United States has mobilized and deployed hundreds of thousands of armed forces and tens of thousands of military equipment on the Korean peninsula where there exists an unstable situation, and it has repeatedly staged provocative nuclear war exercises simulating an attack against the DPRK. Therefore, it is too evident what the U.S. goal is in staging those war exercises.

Our new proposal to pull down the wall dividing Korea into the North and the South and realize free travel and full-scale opening for an early national reunification has come to face a grave challenge due to the U.S. policy of war.

The multichanneled North-South dialogues which had been underway in response to the entire Korean people's ardent desire for reunification have been deadlocked by artificial obstacles.

Military exercises are necessary for a war. Meanwhile, dialogue is ardently necessary for peace and reunification.

If it is true that they want detente and North-South dialogue on the Korean peninsula about which they are never weary of talking, the U.S. authorities must no longer stage military exercises aimed at aggression and war.

The fact that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises which began in the period when the cold war was at its height are being staged even today in the 1990's of detente shows that the United States is, indeed, the very one which opposes peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula and increases the tensions there, keeping hold on South Korea by force of arms and maintaining its colonial domination.

Each time they staged the "Team Spirit," a test nuclear war, the U.S. authorities have babbled about its defensive nature.

However, history and practice prove that there exists no threat from the North on the Korean peninsula.

In recent years alone, the DPRK Government advanced many peace overtures—including the proposal to discontinue large-scale military exercises, the proposal to create a nuclear-free, peace zone on the Korean peninsula, and the proposal for phased arms cut—and has made patient efforts to carry them into effect.

If the United States truly wants peace and detente, at a time when the world declared an end to the cold war and is hailing the advent of an era of detente, it must renounce its policy of confrontation and war first of all on the Korean peninsula where there exists the greatest danger of war and the question of reunification has come to the fore.

The United States must not stage such reckless nuclear war games as "Team Spirit" but withdraw its forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea and take substantial steps for the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean authorities must refrain from committing such antinational, antipeace acts as joining outside forces in the nuclear war maneuvers against their own fellow countrymen and from frustrating North-South dialogue for national reconciliation and unity.

The Korean people appeal to the world peace-loving countries, governments, and people for making positive efforts to prevent the U.S. and the South Korean authorities from staging provocative and aggressive military exercise like the "Team Spirit" and to ease tension on the Korean peninsula.

[Dated] 24 April 1990, Pyongyang

Ambassador Presents Credentials to Gorbachev

SK2604044890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Moscow April 24 (KCNA)—Son Song-pil, newly-appointed DPRK ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to the Soviet Union, today presented his credentials to Soviet President Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin, Moscow.

The ambassador conveyed warm greetings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to respected Comrade M.S. Gorbachev.

Comrade M. Gorbachev expressed deep thanks for this and asked the ambassador to convey his warm regards to Comrade Kim Il-song.

He said the Soviet Union treasures the long-standing friendship between the two parties and two peoples, adding that the tradition of this friendship and cooperation is a good precondition for the development of relations between the two countries.

The talk proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Receives Cuban Military Delegation

SK2604102190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received a visiting Cuban military delegation headed by Ulises Rosales del Toro, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and first deputy minister of the revolutionary armed forces and chief of general staff of the revolutionary armed forces.

Present on the occasion were Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army, and other officials concerned and Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador e. p. to Korea.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial and friendly talk with the guests.

The head of the delegation handed to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the democratic people's Republic of Korea, a gift of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

Signed Commentary Assails Japan's 'Arms Buildup'

SK2604054690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu said at a special meeting of the Budgetary

Committee of the Japan House of Representatives on April 23 that Japan would continue increasing her defence capability.

His utterance going against the international trend of peace and disarmament reflects the ulterior intention of the Japanese reactionaries to step up arms buildup and turn Japan into a military power, says MINJU CHOSON in a signed commentary.

It goes on:
The Japanese reactionaries carried out several five-year plans for arms buildup under the signboard of "strengthening of defence capability." This year is the last of the sixth five-year plan for arms buildup.

In this period Japan's military spendings increased 30 times, ranking third in the world and the arms equipment of the "Self-Defence Forces"(SDF) has been rapidly expanded.

The Japanese reactionaries are scheming to introduce in a few years to come several aircraft carriers, scores of attack ships "Aegis," air refuelers and new type fighter planes whose flying range is 8,000 km.

This means that Japan becomes a military power, having tremendous military potential with a strong striking power and capability for a long war.

It is, in fact, for overseas aggression that in recent years Japan has steadily reinforced the SDF and it is taking an active part in "Pacex," "Rimpac" and other large-scale joint military exercises.

The Japanese reactionaries should immediately give up their arms buildup and moves to turn the country into a military power going against the trend of the times.

World Leaders Support Kim Il-song's Plan

SK2604043890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—Party and state heads and personages of different countries expressed firm solidarity with the Korean people's cause of national reunification and supported and welcomed the new proposal for reunification.

Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; H. Desmond Hoyte, president of Guyana; Kurt Waldheim, Federal president of the Republic of Austria; Jean Spielmann, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Switzerland; A. Grey Zulu, secretary- general of the Central Committee of the United National Independence Party of Zambia; and party and state heads of many other countries manifested the stands of parties and states of their countries supporting the new national reunification proposal.

Senior officials of many countries including foreign ministers of Vietnam, India and Madagascar, speakers of parliaments of Niger and Central Africa and the president of the Rwanda National Development Council expressed support to the new proposal for national reunification in the solidarity messages and letters addressed to relevant organs of our country, in statements and at the press conferences.

Carlos Morales [name as receiving], acting president and vice-president of the Republic of Dominica, stressed that the new national reunification proposal advanced by President Kim Il-song is a realistic one which is causing a worldwide sensation.

Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, leader of the Malta Labour Party, said that the new national reunification proposal is the most just one, saying: the Malta Labour Party unconditionally and actively supports it.

The director of education and youth department of the National Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon had this to say:

The new reunification proposal is one which makes it possible to bring a decisive turn in realising the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea through the concerted efforts of the entire nation.

The proposal is an important measure whereby to accelerate the reunification of Korea and bring justice and peace to the world.

The speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania stated that the reunification proposal advanced by President Kim Il-song in the new year address is a patriotic and peaceloving one which reflects the aspirations of the entire Korean people and the peaceloving people of the world who desire peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings to Afghan President

SK2604103390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the victory of the April Revolution in Afghanistan.

The message sincerely wishes the Afghan president and people greater success in their endeavours to consolidate tme gains of the April Revolution, achieve national reconciliation and stability of the country and build an independent, neutral and non-aligned Afghanistan.

It expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of the two countries will further strengthen and develop in the future.

Cha Pong-chu Leaves for Southeast Asia Tour

SK2504113290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—A DPRK trade union delegation headed by O Yong-nin, chairman of the Central Auditing Commission of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, left here today by air to attend the May day functions in Cuba and a foreign ministry delegation of the DPRK headed by Vice-Minister Cha Pong-chu to visit Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

Greetings Sent to New Prime Minister of Nepal

SK2504122690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, sent a message of greetings to Krishna Prasad Bhattarai upon his election as prime minister of the Kingdom of Nepal.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will grow stronger and develop in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the message sincerely wishes him great success in his responsible work for the stability and prosperity of the countrx.

New Ambassador Appointed to Indonesia 25 Apr

SK2504112690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Han Pong-ha was appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Republic of Indonesia, according to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee.

Meeting Marks Tanzanian 26th Anniversary

SK2604101790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—A meeting was held here today to mark the 26th anniversary of the founding of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Present at the meeting were Kim Chang-kuk, vice-minister of culture and art and vice-chairman of the Korea-Tanzania Friendship Society, Pak Tong-chun, vice-chairman of the committee for cultural relations with foreign countries, other officials concerned and working people in the city.

A speech was made and a message of greetings to the president of the United Republic of Tanzania adopted at the meeting.

South Korea

New Soviet Democratic Party Recognizes ROK

SK2604112790 Seoul YONHAP in English 1032 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Moscow, April 26 (YONHAP)—The Liberal Democratic Party of the Soviet Union (LDPSU), the first non-communist party in Soviet history, recognizes South Korea as the legitimate state representing the Korean peninsula, and hopes for an unification of the peninsula under the government system held by the South, LDPSU leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said Thursday.

In an exclusive interview with South Korea's YONHAP NEWS AGENCY, the former Moscow lawyer said his party, founded on March 31, supports South Korea but not the "dictatorial" regime of North Korea.

Zhirinovskiy said he favors Moscow's immediate establishment of political, economic and cultural relations with Seoul. He said his party is willing to have cooperative relations with South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

Noting that he is against the far rightist as well as the Communists, Zhirinovskiy said he supports, however, Mikhail Gorbachev and his policy of perestroyka.

The LDPSU will hold the second congress in April next year in Kremlin and will nominate a candidate for the presidency, he added, suggesting that he would run for the supreme post.

ROK To Ask Soviet Apology for Downing Plane

SK2604045190 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 25 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] It has been learned that, in the course of negotiations with the Soviet Union over establishing diplomatic relations, the government will bring forward the question of Soviet apology for shooting down a Korean civil passenger airliner and the question of Soviet responsibility for dividing the Korean peninsula.

Revealing that "it is inevitable to arrange the standpoints of both countries over a few past questions," a high-ranking official of the government said "the incident of shooting a Korean civil passenger airliner and the Soviet acceptance of its responsibility for dividing the Korean peninsula will be included in those questions."

Saying "in the course of negotiations, we will call on the Soviet Union to clearly express its standpoint on South Korea's UN entry and on its relations with North Korea," he added that "the government will seek to settle those various pending issues in the course of establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union."

Deputy Minister Meets USSR Counterpart at UN

SK2604010090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0040 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—The vice foreign ministers of South Korea and the Soviet Union discussed establishment of diplomatic relations and expansion of economic ties during an encounter at U.N. headquarters in New York on Tuesday [23 April], the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The unscheduled talk between Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha and Deputy Foreign Minister Ernest E. Obminskiy, both attending a special economic session of the U.N. General Assembly, was the first open contact between such high level diplomats of the two countries, ministry spokesman Chong Ui-yong said. Chong declined to say how long the meeting lasted.

Yu told Obminskiy that South Korea would soon send negotiators to Moscow to pave the way for the establishment of diplomatic ties and asked for Moscow to cooperate for Seoul's entry into the United Nations, he said.

The two vice ministers "met by chance in the lobby of the U.N. Headquarters and exchanged opinions useful for the expansion of substantial ties between the two countries," Chong said, but refused to go any further.

However, another ministry official said the two vice ministers had discussed "in depth the dispatch of negotiators for the establishment of diplomatic ties, Korea's joining the world body, and ways of expanding economic cooperation."

The Korean and Soviet ambassadors to the United Nations were also present at the meeting.

Soviet Journalists Said Denied Access in DPRK

SK2604031190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Soviet journalists in North Korea are being denied access to news sources as apparent punishment for a series of articles in the Soviet press criticizing the hardline communist state.

Aleksandr Zhubin, Pyongyang bureau chief for the Soviet News Agency TASS, recently wrote in PRAVDA that the restrictions on Soviet journalists were imposed after several reports critical of North Korea appeared in Soviet news media, according to NAEWOE Press, Seoul's official watcher of affairs in the communist world.

Zhubin claimed in his article in the Soviet Communist Party organ that the North Korean authorities had refused all requests to meet government officials for the last two months and that the Soviet reporters "are in a very strange position," NAEWOE said.

The TASS correspondent said an official at the Foreign Ministry in charge of press affairs proposed that the Soviet newsmen write "good articles" supporting North Korea's communist revolution, in return for which their demands would be met, according to NAEWOE.

Recent critical reports on North Korea's system embarrassed Pyongyang, which asked the Soviet Embassy to take steps to discourage such reports, Zhubin said.

In an indication of a breach in Pyongyang-Moscow relations, Radio Moscow, the weekly magazine "ARGUMENT AND FACT" and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA have recently carried a series of articles criticizing Pyongyang.

One article said unkind things about North Korea's system and its leader, Kim Il-song, while another said the Korean war was begun by North Korea's invasion of the South. Pyongyang claims South Korea initiated the war.

Editorial Views Soviet Tensions With DPRK

SK2504090190 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 22 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Soviet Pressure for North Korea's Reform"]

[Text] Soviet-North Korean relations have become delicate lately. Under these circumstances, it is necessary for us to be attentive with regard to the influence this situation may have over North-South relations and over the stability on the Korean peninsula.

The change of the Soviet attitude toward North Korea has been disclosed, above all, by Soviet mass media such as ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, NOVOYE VREMYA, and MOSKOVSKAYA NOVOSTI which strongly called for North Korea's openness and reform by directly criticizing Kim Il-song's system, and which even warned that Kim Il-song may end up falling, as did the Ceausescu regime of Romania, if he continues to reject reform. At the same time, by refuting North Korea's allegation that Kim Il-song led all the Korean anti-Japanese partisan units and achieved national liberation, and by saying that Kim Il-song commanded only a single partisan unit as a Soviet Army captain, these media downgraded Kim Il-song, who has been thoroughly idolized and deified, along with his chuche idea.

In addition, high-ranking Soviet officials and scholars stressed the need for state relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union and called for recognizing the existence of the two countries of North and South Korea on the Korean peninsula. At the same time, along with the United States, they are using their influence to press North Korea to conclude a nuclear inspection agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. It was also reported that, in Moscow, new North Korean Ambassador Son Song-pil had not been allowed yet to have an opportunity to present his credentials to President Gorbachev, even though more than a month has already passed since he came to Moscow.

North Korea has openly criticized the ROK and Soviet overture to one another. It has, however, not yet summoned about 1,000 North Korean students and technicians staying in the Soviet Union, but is reportedly considering repatriating the Soviets and other foreigners living in Pyongyang who are critical of the North Korean system.

Seeing the deteriorating North Korean-Soviet relations, we are nervous about some adverse effect that the outbreak of an incident may instantaneously have on North-South relations.

We would like to believe in the Soviet assertion that its policy on North Korea can help promote North-South dialogue and ease tension. We, too, hope that North Korea will gradually change by adopting the policy of openness and reform as in the East European countries and in the Soviet Union.

Under no circumstances should North Korea regard the improvement of ROK-Soviet relations as something that will drive it into a corner and isolate it. Improving ROK-Soviet relations makes all live equally in peace by achieving friendship and cooperation with the neighboring nations. This carries on the spirit of the U.S.-Soviet summit held last year in Malta, which ended the cold war and ushered in the new era of cooperation.

Moreover, the significance of improving ROK-Soviet relations is to create the atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation among the neighboring nations and thus to pave the way to peaceful coexistence and cooperation with North Korea, which is still keeping its door tightly closed.

We believe that the North Korean authorities are also well aware of this. The ROK Government is now considering various measures such as holding talks between the leaders of the North and South, realizing arms reduction between the two, and cooperating in the field of economy in order to resume dialogue, which has been suspended, and to realize exchanges. At the same time, colleges, academic societies, mass media organizations, and many other social circles are making efforts to realize exchanges and hold contact with North Korea. The Arts Center is even planning to invite the North Korean national symphony orchestra.

North Korea should appreciate such endeavors we are making by disregarding the shock we lately experienced in the discovery of the fourth underground tunnel. We hope that North Korea will voluntarily embrace the global tenor of openness and reform in order to achieve peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

Security Agency Said Watching Communist Visitors

SK2604024990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0156 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—More than 400 visitors from communist countries have been placed under surveillance by South Korean security agents since 1988 to prevent industrial and military espionage, an intelligence source said Thursday [26 Apr].

A high-ranking U.S. military intelligence officer has told his Korean counterpart that some Soviet businessmen visiting Korea may be KGB agents, he said, but declined to reveal further details. The security watchlist contained the names of 162 out of 3,808 visitors from communist nations in 1988 and 226 out of 6,944 in 1989, the source said.

The intelligence agency put 53 out of 952 visitors on the surveillance list in the first two months of this year, said the source, who declined to be named. The source said 3.6 percent of visitors from communist countries since 1988 have been put under watch.

They include 105 from China, 104 from the Soviet Union, 44 from Hungary, 42 from Bulgaria, 32 from Yugoslavia, 30 from Czechoslovakia, 25 from Poland, 24 from Romania, 19 from Vietnam, 11 from East Germany, eight from Laos, six from Cambodia and one from Cuba, according to the source.

It said the government feels it is necessary to take steps to prevent the loss of high technology as well as military secrets.

Japan's Fingerprinting Blocks Residency Accord

SK2604075690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—Japan's fingerprinting of resident aliens is a formidable barrier to settlement of a row over the status of Koreans residing in Japan, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

They said the two sides had narrowed differences regarding the status of third-generation Koreans to a great extent as of Thursday afternoon but were unable to agree on the fingerprinting issue, the core of what Koreans label the "four evils."

The two sides were represented by Kim Chong-ki, Asian affairs director-general at the Foreign Ministry, and his Japanese counterpart, Sakutaro Danino. They agreed to extend re-entry permits from two years to five, to increase grounds for deportation from a seven-year to 10-year prison term and to ease the penalty for failure to carry an alien registration card.

The Korean side argued that fingerprinting was a symbol of Japan's discrimination against Koreans, who were taken to the country against their will, and should be abolished. The Japanese side suggested that a decision on fingerprinting be shelved until Jan. 16 next year, the deadline for bilateral negotiations agreed earlier.

A Foreign Ministry source quoted the Japanese officials as saying that Koreans born in Japan could be exempted from the fingerprinting requirement.

"The Japanese side is aware of the problem," he said. "Foreign ministers will pick up the issue again when they meet in Seoul on April 30."

Pak Tae-chun, president No Tae-u's stand-in as co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), returned Thursday afternoon from a trouble-shooting trip to Tokyo. He told reporters at Kimpo International Airport that Japanese leaders seemed to be deeply concerned about the problem of the legal status of Korean residents.

"I had the impression that a political resolution will be sought soon in order to realize President No's visit," he said.

Traveling in his capacity as Korean-side chairman of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians Union, Pak met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, and former Prime Ministers Noboru Takeshita, Yasuhiro Nakasone and Takeo Fukuda to seek a political resolution of the long-drawn-out dispute.

Government To Seek Consular Ties With China

SK2604023090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun said yesterday that the government would seek the establishment of an agreement with China on the opening of consular relations around the Beijing Asian Games, scheduled for September.

In a forum with citizens in Chongju, the capital city of Chungchongpuk-to, he said that the administration would invite high-level Chinese officials for the expansion of economic cooperation to develop formal ties with the Communist giant.

"The administration will focus on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, while deepening existing ties by inviting high-level government officials on the occasion of the Beijing Games," he said.

Efforts will be also made to resume dialogue with North Korea as our goal of diplomacy is to ensure peace and stability on the Korean peninsula as well as advancing the reunification of the divided fatherland.

Legal and institutional systems will be revised to back up inter-Korean exchange and cooperation without hurting North Korea, he told an audience of about 260 citizens at a public conference hall.

"We will make strenuous efforts to realize reunification, pursuing a national commonwealth. [passage omitted]

Pak Pil-su Meets With Mexican Cabinet Members

SK2404021590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Mexico City, April 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Pak Pil-su had separate meetings with members of the Mexican Cabinet Monday to discuss ways to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Pak told Planning and Budget Secretary Ernest Zedillo Ponce de Leon that Mexico could utilize the Korean experience in its economic planning and said Korea was ready to sign an agreement on cooperation for economic planning proposed by Mexico.

Citing his country's geographic proximity to the United States, Zedillo said Korean industries could expand their access to the U.S. market by investing in Mexico and he hoped they would help Mexico's economic development by transferring technologies.

Pak and Zedillo agreed to arrange for a large delegation of Korean businessmen to visit mexico near the end of May.

In a meeting between Pak and Communications and Transportation Secretary Andres Caso Lombardo, the two nations agreed to substantiate bilateral cooperation in aviation. Caso called for the early opening of flights by Korean Air between Seoul and Mexico and was told that Seoul would seek to open a route to Mexico City via Los Angeles as soon as Korea-U.S. talks on beyond rights are settled.

Further on Labor Unrest at KBS, Hyundai Facility

Unions Consider Solidarity Strikes

SK2604014090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Workers at Hyundai Heavy Industries, went on strike yesterday and labor unionists at other key industrial facilities are moving to stage joint strikes in a show of solidarity with the Hyundai employees. Unions at other firms affiliated with Hyundai business group are also considering taking protest actions to stand up for the Hyundai Heavy Industries workers.

The league of labor unions at Masan and Changwon industrial complex, Kyongsangnam-to, yesterday set up an emergency committee to discuss ways to offer support to the Hyundai workers' strike, caused by the arrest of union leaders.

The operation of Kia Motors Co. in Kwangmyong City, Kyonggi-to, was suspended yesterday as unionized workers took a day off en masse, challenging the management's "no work, no pay" principle. The Kia workers pledged that they will go on general strike today unless the management retracts its earlier decision.

The workers took the protest action as the management refused to pay workers who missed eight hours of work to attend the labor union's general meeting recently.

The labor union of Hyundai Motors Co. is planning to report a labor dispute on May 1 to the Ulsan Labor Office as wage negotiations with the management have hit a snag. After the rupture of collective bargaining with management yesterday, 260 representatives of the Hyundai Motors labor union went into a sit-in protest at the union office.

Labor disputes at Han Kuk Yakult Milk Products Co. and the Seoul Subway Corp. have taken serious turn as radical workers have started hunger strikes and wildcat walkouts.

Labors disturbances are expected on a massive scale in early May as unions plan to hold rallies and other commemorative events on May Day. The authorities will not allow ceremonies and rallies to be staged in observance of May Day which has yet to be recognized as a public holiday. But the Federation of Korean Trade Unions and other labor organizations are planning various events in commemoration of May Day.

"Chonnohyop," a national labor activists' group, will hold a separate May Day rally on the Seoul National University campus.

Labor Ministry officials expressed the opinion that the spread of labor unrest was spawned by the prolonged protest action at KBS [Koran Broadcast System], which they said is "bad precedent." They viewed that the unrest would spread to many worksites around May Day when the annual collective bargainings usually start.

10,000 Police Mobilized

SK2604035490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Ulsan, South Korea, April 26 (YONHAP)—Some 10,000 riot police were deployed around the shipyard of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. here Thursday [26 Apr] in preparation for a raid to crush a strike by some 15,000 workers, according to a spokesman for the National Police Headquarters.

Vice Director-General of the National Police Headquarters Yo Kwan-ku was sent to this coastal industrial city, some 300 kilometers southeast of Seoul, to take command of the anti-strike operation, which includes the 3,500 police troops deployed there on Wednesday afternoon.

Hyundai workers, on strike for the second day Thursday, urged management to drop its complaint against union leaders filed with the police and implement the collective agreement. The union says it will negotiate again with management about the dispute. A company source said if the negotiations break down, it will suspend operations for three days beginning Friday.

Some 2,000 strikers have erected barricades in front of all five shipyard gates and armed themselves with steel bars and firebombs. Piles of nuts, bolts and rocks scattered around the factory grounds are for throwing at the police. The union has set up 110 large tents that can accommodate 2,200 people and workers plan to camp out to defend against a possible night attack by police.

Police are likely to storm the plant within a couple of days, once they have arrest warrants for union leaders who were charged Wednesday by management with violating labor laws. Workers went on strike Wednesday, demanding that union leaders arrested in previous disputes be released immediately.

'Likely To Use Force'

SK2604060890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government is likely to use force against strikers at the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) and the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. in Ulsan to prevent the conflicts from spreading to other work sites.

An emergency meeting of cabinet ministers Wednesday [25 April] resolved to take stern steps against outlawed union activities and rigidly punish strikers.

The consensus at the special meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, was that the government should use physical force to end the disputes at the state-run network and the Hyundai shipyard in the southeastern industrial city.

A statement issued after the meeting said: "The government will not accept the KBS union's call for withdrawing the appointment of the new network president because the appointment was made according to proper process and the union's collective action to boycott production of programs for that reason cannot be justified."

KBS staff have staged a work stoppage for 15 days that has practically paralyzed braodcasting against the appointment of So Ki-won as KBS president for his connection to past dictatorial governments.

The statement urged Hyundai laborers to return to work immediately and abandon their strike, which it said was an unlawful action lacking due procedure.

"The destructive action of Hyundai workers breaks relevant laws and is beyond the purview of a labor movement since it is aimed at the release of arrested union leaders and this is not an object of labor-management negotiation," it said.

The strike at the Hyundai Shipyard is the largest this year. It was sparked by the arrest of a leading unionist, and additional arrests of union organizers Wednesday coupled with the government's position to head off strikes at other companies has exacerbated the situation. The government warned that it would not tolerate the situation at KBS any longer since KBS belongs to the nation and is a vital security facility, and it asked the union to normalize operations without delay.

The adamant position of the government is apparently related to the perception that the prolonged KBS dispute is stimulating sympathy protests at other work sites, which have been calm compared with previous years. The government is also concerned that the on-going collective action could spread out of control, especially as May Day is approaching.

The government is also expected to block May Day activities for fear of a nationwide labor movement even though the Labor Ministry had considered allowing workers to celebrate May Day within a certain limit.

KBS Head's Resignation Urged

SK2604083090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0748 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—The head of the organization that oversees operations at the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) indirectly called on the state-run network's president to resign Thursday to settle a two-week-long work stoppage. The Rev. Kang Won-nyong, chairman of the Korea Broadcasting Commission, also urged an immediate and unconditional return to work by KBS staff.

"I hope KBS President So Ki-won will make a brave choice to bring an end to the unfortunate incident. Whether So will step down or not should be decided... from a broader point of view to save the public-owned network," Kang told a news conference.

"So should change his position," the prominent clergyman said, indirectly calling for So to step down. He demanded that So and KBS employees apologize to the public for crippling the giant network, and called for immediate action to return broadcasting to normal.

Kang warned the government against using the police to break up the strike and cautioned the staff not to do anything to give the police a reason to intervene.

"I will continue efforts to make a compromise," said Kang, who has been trying to mediate between the government and the staff. The KBS union, which is demanding that So's appointment as KBS chief be revoked because he is "undemocratic and anti-union" and is closely connected with previous dictatorial rulers, said it basically supports Kang's suggestions.

"We are willing to normalize broadcasts if the government is willing to accept Kang's proposals," a union statement said.

Thousands of KBS employees held an emergency meeting Thursday afternoon to discuss the situation but it was not known how the government responded to Kang's suggestions, which came as it was considering legal action against KBS union leaders on charges of obstruction and violence.

The government may order riot police into KBS headquarters to break up sit-ins and arrest union leaders if the work stoppage is still going this weekend, a government source said.

There are fears that using force against the media giant, which has a virtual monopoly on television and radio in Korea with three of the nation's four TV channels and eight of its 12 radio stations, could have negative rather than positive repercussions.

The union claims So's appointment as the network's chief is part of a government plot to regain control of the nation's broadcast media, which were often criticized for unfair and biased reporting under dictatorial rulers but recently began a climb back to public respect with union efforts for fairness.

The government charges that the union's action is not a legal labor activity designed to improve working conditions, but is a challenge to the government's right to manage personnel and is an illegal collective action.

Kim Yong-sam Admits 'Misbehavior' Caused Strife

SK2604012290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Factional strife within the ruling party over leak of a "secret" pact about the transfer of party leadership showed signs of calming down yesterday as Kim Yong-sam expressed his regret for the matter in a meeting of the Executive Committee.

With Kim's appeal for party solidarity, executive members belonging to the old ruling party retreated from their demands for explanation of the remarks by floor leader Kim Tong-yong, a protege of Kim Yong-sam, that President No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil had reached an agreement to have Kim Yong-sam take over party leadership after No completes out his five-year term of office in 1993.

Instead, some members suggested that key post-holders of the party be elected rather than appointed to guarantee "rule by institution rather than by persons."

Earlier, senior members of President No's old ruling party had appeared determined to mount an offensive against the Kim Yong-sam camp, which they claimed had leaked the "secret" agreement in a bid to take control of party leadership ahead of an inaugural convention and with an eye on the 1993 presidential election. Some hardliners even called for floor leader Kim to be brought before the Disciplinary Committee for acts "inflicting damage on party image."

Kim Yong-sam made explanatory remarks upon the opening of the Executive Committee meeting in a move to block the offensive from the senior members of the former Democratic Justice Party.

"I humbly admit that all controversy within our party stemmed from my misbehavior; I will now do my best to promote party unity," he said, also vowing to uncover the truth about the controversy. He did not make mention of the allegation of a "secret pact" at the time of the merger of their three parties in January.

"The merger of the three parties would probably have been impossible if I had been concerned with taking power or party leadership," and Kim.

Kim then hastily declared the adjourment of the Executive Committee meeting by pounding the gavel three times, but debate followed as some members of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] faction demanded that the issue required further discussion.

Rep. Sim Myong-po, former secretary general of the DJP, said, "Our party has been seriously damaged by the reports of a secret memorandum about party leadership transfer. The person who started the rumor and whether or not such a memo exists should be determined."

Rep. Yi Chong-chan, former floor leader and secretary general of the now-dissolved DJP, argued, "The party should not be ruled by persons but by institutions. To that end, our party should ready itself for the rule by the institution." He then asserted that heads of the party's provincial branches be elected through competition in the upcoming national convention.

Meanwhile, 24 junior lawmakers of the former DJP gathered in a downtown hotel yesterday morning to discuss how to retaliate against the Kim Yong-sam clique.

Rep. Choe Chae-uk, former presidential spokesman, told reporters after the meeting that he would relay their demands for explanation of the current situation of party leaders.

DLP Leaders To Meet, Discuss Party Changes

SK2604062690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0553 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, co-leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), will meet Thursday [26 April] evening to discuss national issues and party affairs.

High on the agenda of the meeting will be changes in the party leadership, over which the three major DLP factions have shown striking differences. Also attending will be Pak Tae-chun, No's stand-in in the DLP troika.

No's faction, mainly drawn from the old Democratic Justice Party, seeks a revision of the party constitution to create a DLP presidency and supreme leadership council and wants No to be party president and Kim Yong-sam chairman of the leadership council with limited power under No. The revision is to be debated at a national party convention in May.

Members loyal to No insist that he have exclusive control of party affairs, but Kim Yong-sam's faction, mostly members of the former Reunification Democratic Party, contend their man should virtually control the party.

Pending issues likely to be discussed include a work stoppage at the state-run Korea Broadcasting System, inflation, real estate speculation and crime, according to the party spokesman.

Agree on New Leadership System

SK2604125190 Seoul YONHAP in English 1138 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—Top leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) agreed Thursday on a new party leadership system which essentially simplifies chain of command under party President No Tae-u's leadership.

In a three-hour-long meeting at the presidencial residence of Chongwadae, No, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, both of them co-leaders of the party, agreed to set up a leadership system which empowers party President No to have control over the party and represent the party.

The agreement allows No to control and supervise party affairs in close consultation with the Supreme Leadership Council of which members will not exceed five in number. The Supreme Leadership Council will be represented by its chairman, who will have control over executions of party affairs on the basis of consensus among the council members.

The DLP leaders decided to make voluntary efforts to wipe out traits of factionalism inside the party and show intraparty harmony in the national convention slated to be held May 9, Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-chung said after the meeting.

Three major factions of the ruling party, which was brought to birth recently through the merger of three parties, have shown differences over party leadership.

Kim Yong-sam's followers, mostly members of the former opposition Reunification Democratic Party, have contended that Kim should have the right to virtually control the party while No is fully entrusted with the administration.

The top leaders meeting, which was also attended by Pak Tae-chun, No's stand-in in the leadership council, expressed concern over the work stoppages at the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. and decided to use "tough" measures against strikers in light of their impacts on national economy, according to Yi.

They discussed other pending national issues, including intensifying inflationary pressure, real-estate speculation, soaring house rents and sluggish exports.

Article Views Future of Kim Tae-chung, PPD

SK2404170190 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Mar 90 pp 130-141

[Article by Kim Hyon-sop: "Kim Tae-chung and the PPD, Will They Survive?"]

[Text] **Is it Possible for the PPD To Outgrow its Regional Party Image?**

After partisan restructuring emerged as a major political issue, the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) worried most about a three-party merger among the Democratic Justice Party (DJP), the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), and the New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP).

In fact, the three-party merger signalled a loss of the political influence the PPD had enjoyed as the leading opposition party. The merger also severely reduced the chances that a PPD candidate would win the presidency.

The tri-party merger represented the worst possible outcome for the PPD. It came like a bolt out of the blue, taking the PPD completely by surprise. The merger completely ignored the PPD's intentions. Once again, the PPD finds itself in a situation in which it must adapt to a political structure which it had no part in creating.

The merger did have one positive result on the PPD, however. It left the PPD as the sole opposition party. Under the former structure, PPD President Kim Tae-chung and RDP President Kim Yong-sam had been obliged to dedicate an excessive amount of energy to competing among themselves. Each could lay claim to representing only half of the total opposition forces, severely limiting the range of actions open to them. The merger removed Kim Yong-sam as an obstacle to Kim Tae-chung, providing the latter with an opportunity to encompass the entirety of the organized opposition.

In the first hours and days following the merger, the PPD found itself thrown into internal chaos. But as time passed, the PPD rebounded, realizing that the merger provided the party with very exploitable opportunities. The PPD may yet manage to transform the misfortune of the merger into a blessing.

Korean voters have always felt the need to cultivate an opposition party to serve as a restraining influence on the ruling party. As a result of this political reality, the PPD had gained votes in comparison to the DJP in successive elections. Some believe that the PPD may yet develop into an alternative power to the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP). It does not appear, however, that the PPD can achieve this goal easily.

Public support for political parties in Korea has always been divided along regional lines. Establishing a support base on a national level is difficult. It will not be easy for the PPD to become a people's party, drawing significant support from every region of the country.

Aware of this limitation, the PPD intends to surmount it by forming a new political party. PPD strategists have targeted lawmakers of the old RDP as well as independent Assembly deputies to form such a party. The movement to create a new opposition party, however, also has imposed limitations on the PPD's ability to expand its power.

Many observers believe that the PPD will not be able to grow beyond a Honam-based, regional party. If so, then a divided opposition remains inevitable. And if so, Kim Tae-chung may prove to be the first of Korea's major political powers—President No and the three Kims—to plummet from the political stage.

On the other hand, the merger may prove to benefit Kim Tae-chung the politician. The DLP, for example, could fail to live up to the expectations of the Korean people. Should this occur and should attempts to form a new opposition party prove fruitless, Kim's PPD could gain public acceptance as the sole opposition party. This could result in a swing of virtually all Korean voters to the PPD.

PPD President Kim Tae-chung: Caught in a Trap

The PPD directions remain unclear at this point.

The party will have difficulty expanding its support outside the Honam region as long as Kim Tae-chung remains at the helm. Yet the PPD lacks the ability to survive without Kim. The PPD must learn to function within these two contradictory limitations. The road ahead will be rocky.

One must consider the PPD's position during the partisan restructuring process to grasp the PPD's strategy of opposition to the three-party merger. Rumor has it that the DJP and PPD conducted discussions on establishing a coalition government between their two parties. This must not be ignored when assessing the PPD's response to the merger.

Immediately following the announcement of the merger, President No commented that, "The PPD certainly was not excluded in the partisan restructuring. They decided on their own to continue as an opposition party." President No made this statement in an interview with one of the daily newspapers, hinting that discussions with the PPD were held during the restructuring.

Kim Tae-chung also revealed that the issue of a coalition government between the DJP and PPD was discussed during talks at Chongwadae on 22 January 1990, confirming President No's statement. Kim misperceived No's offer to form a coalition to be mere "words in passing," certainly insincere and possibly a trap.

Sources say that discussions between the DJP and the PPD regarding partisan restructuring were part of the spring 1989 agreement to postpone a mid-term assessment. Information leaked from both the DJP and PPD since the three-party merger agrees on this.

The security agency political crisis brought an end to the talks at that time, and the relationship between the two parties soured. No further progress on restructuring occurred between the DJP and PPD.

Offers of a DJP-PPD coalition reappeared in earnest during the process of negotiating a settlement of the Fifth Republic issue.

At that time, DJP Floor leader Kim Yun-hwan and First Minister for Political Affairs Pak Chol-on were responsible for negotiations with the PPD. Kim and Pak expressed to PPD Floor leader Kim Won-ki the DJP's intentions to "lead the political world following the Fifth Republic settlement via a DJP-PPD based coalition government." The DJP is known to have expressed this intention to the PPD on several occasions through this channel.

The PPD seriously considered the DJP's proposals at the time. Both Kim Tae-chung and Kim Won-ki regarded partisan restructuring as inevitable, and they both believed that cooperation between the PPD and DJP was the best alternative.

Kim Won-ki acknowledges that the DJP made a formal proposal to the PPD, but Kim adds that, "The PPD refused the offer."

One must question whether the DJP was sincere in its offer to form a coalition with the PPD. Whether the DJP was sincere depends upon when President No reached the decision on the outlines of the final merger. Close examination reveals that No made his decision on political restructuring long before he made the offer to the PPD.

The DJP's offer to the PPD to establish a coalition, then, appears to have been a strategy to gain the PPD's cooperation in settling the Fifth Republic issue. The DJP simply double-crossed the PPD.

Offer To Share Portfolios in a Coalition Government

The PPD saw fit not to refuse the DJP's coalition offer outright, preferring instead to maintain a non-committal attitude.

Neither Kim Tae-chung nor Kim Won-ki saw any justification for pursuing a coalition with the DJP immediately after the conclusion of the Fifth Republic problem. Moreover, the PPD feared talk of coalition would trigger a negative response from their party's support base, the Honam region and the dissidents.

The PPD basically wanted to assume a leading role in politics via cooperation with the DJP. Sources say the PPD may even have considered a coalition, if that proved to be necessary to achieve cooperation with the DJP.

The DJP and PPD, then, differed only on the question of timing for partisan restructuring. The PPD did not perceive restructuring as a pressing issue at the moment. They simply wanted to await the first advantageous moment before they moved.

Sources say Kim Won-ki set several conditions in response to the DJP's coalition proposal. Settlement of the Fifth Republic issue was the first. But the PPD also demanded a number of democratization measures, including abolition of evil laws and holding local autonomy elections. Following local elections, the PPD demanded that a coalition cabinet be established, with portfolios assigned to ruling and opposition party figures alike. The PPD would agree to a coalition only after its conditions were met.

The PPD's final demand was that a coalition between the two parties be undertaken only gradually. Policy cooperation between the two parties was to be the first of a series of steps to be taken. The PPD hoped a gradualist approach to coalition would reduce the shock of a coalition between the two parties.

Judging from the PPD's proposal for a coalition cabinet, it appears that the PPD saw the period just before the 1992 general election as the most opportune time for a major coalition move.

The DJP and PPD continued their discussions up until the testimony of former President Chon Tu-hwan at the very end of 1989.

Kim Tae-chung viewed the golf meetings of Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil in the context of the negotiations he knew to be underway between his party and the DJP. Thus Kim Tae-chung saw the golf outings as nothing more than RDP and NDRP attempts at self-preservation. Kim simply could not perceive that the golf meetings could amount to a preliminary step toward a merger of the other three major political parties.

Right through the end of 1989, Kim Tae-chung firmly believed that, "President No intends to conduct politics with the PPD." Kim repeatedly dismissed news reports hinting at the possibility of the three party merger.

Kim Tae-chung began to sense that something was wrong immediately after Chon Tu-hwan's National Assembly testimony. The DJP severed its pipeline to the PPD as soon as Chon delivered his testimony. Talks between Kim Chong-pil and Kim Yong-sam began to appear ominous at this time also.

Kim Tae-chung could not help but be nervous. PPD Floor leader Kim Won-ki sought a meeting with Minister Pak Chol-on to ascertain the DJP's intentions. The fact of this meeting, which took place immediately before President No's New Year's news conference, serves to confirm Kim Tae-chung's uneasiness.

Pak confronted Kim Won-ki with an ultimatum, according to Kim. Pak declared, "The ruling camp can no longer delay partisan restructuring. We will expect to hear your final intentions at the private talks which open at Chongwadae on 12 January."

Kim Won-ki reported this to Kim Tae-chung, and tension within the PPD heightened. The PPD realized that an early restructuring of partisan politics suggested that the PPD would be excluded.

At his New Year's news conference, however, President No stated that, "I will not conduct an artificial partisan restructuring." PPD President Kim therefore ignored Minister Pak Chol-on's ultimatum as not reflecting President No's feelings on the subject.

Supreme Self-Confidence Precedes Defeat at the Game of Politics

Kim Tae-chung sought President No's feelings on early partisan restructuring during the 12 January 1990 Chongwadae talks. Kim apparently attempted to confirm whether DJP Chairman Pak Chun-kyu's remarks on restructuring reflected No's true intentions. President No repeated the statements he had made during the earlier news conference.

PPD President Kim was even more convinced that No opposed an early partisan restructuring. During the rest of the Chongwadae talks, Kim concentrated his attention on the overall partisan restructuring problem or on the issues of potential mergers between the DJP and either the RDP or the NDRP. This was the extent of Kim Tae-chung's efforts at the time; he showed no signs of a changed attitude on a DJP-PPD coalition.

Following his talks with President No, Kim Tae-chung commented, "After I brought up the issues of coalitions between the DJP and RDP or between the DJP and NDRP, President No asked me why I did not approach him with an offer to join forces."

This appears to have been the last time that President No held the door open to Kim Tae-chung. Kim, however, was unable to perceive this. He simply repeated his proposal for gradual cooperation which he had passed to the DJP through Floor leader Kim Won-ki.

Kim Won-ki, meanwhile, pointed out to the DJP that, "The roots of the PPD and the DJP are different, so we can't cooperate. The PPD will continue to fulfill its opposition role as an arbiter of what is correct in the Assembly." Kim thus conveyed the PPD's negative response to partisan restructuring.

PPD President Kim Tae-chung would probably have responded differently to No at this time had he perceived that the president intended to conclude an early restructuring of the partisan political scene. Instead, Kim made his own proposal on restructuring. Kim and the PPD apparently made the proposal and deliberately leaked details about on-going negotiations on restructuring in a belated attempt to block a possible three-party merger.

Kim Tae-chung's excessive reliance on No Tae-u's statements were the major cause for his misguided perceptions on partisan restructuring.

But Kim was also caught up in his own narrow political outlook, and his lackadaisical attitude was the basic cause for his failure to foresee the events leading up to the merger.

The former four-party system was convenient for Kim Tae-chung. He therefore overlooked the intentions of other political forces in regard to restructuring.

The PPD enjoyed an elevated status in the four-party political world. The PPD had cooperated with the DJP to find a conclusion to the Fifth Republic issue and to implement various other democratization measures. The PPD believed it could use local autonomy elections to establish a two-party structure. This is the reason Kim Tae-chung so consistently demanded these elections. Kim believed that the four-party system spelled defeat for the RDP and NDRP in local elections.

PPD President Kim's strategy was to emerge from the local elections as one of only two viable parties, after the defeat of the RDP and NDRP. Kim planned to then discuss coalition government with the DJP from a more commanding position, calculating that the PPD could actually emerge victorious over the DJP in a series of contests.

Kim failed to consider that the other three parties would endeavor to block any political structure which would be advantageous to the PPD. The three-party merger served to subvert Kim Tae-chung's political strategy.

Strictly speaking, therefore, PPD President Kim lost the political game associated with partisan restructuring.

One can easily see how far afield Kim Tae-chung had wandered in the wake of the 12 January 1990 Chongwadae talks. He adamantly refused to believe that there was reason for President No to decide on a three-party merger, even up to the 22 January 1990 announcement. Kim maintained this opinion despite that fact that substantial work was being done to prepare for the merger. Kim can still claim that it all seems like a dream.

Simple House-Cleaning Rather Than a Tough Battle

The PPD was stunned by the sudden announcement of the three-party merger. The party's agony was increased because it had not worked out any immediate and effective measures to respond to the merger.

Kim Tae-chung publicly declared his failure in the struggle to block the merger of the three parties. He admitted both his and the PPD's failure to properly take the lead and mobilize public opposition to the merger.

A propaganda war aimed at heightening public opposition to the merger was the best the PPD could come up with.

Kim focused on condemning the merger as "an act of treason against the Korean people" and "a second Yushin coup d'etat" in a series of press gatherings and interviews. He went on to propose the mass resignation of National Assembly deputies to be followed by general elections.

Kim went on to postpone the one concrete action of his struggle, a drive to collect ten-million signatures against the merger, until after the next plenary session of the Assembly.

PPD President Kim was unable to muster the necessary public support against the merger. Without that support, Kim's own hasty measures opposing the merger could not be effective.

The PPD focused its propaganda war on criticizing the undemocratic nature of the merger. The party also concentrated its attack on the merger's principal figures, No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam, and Kim Chong-pil.

The PPD hoped to label the newly merged DLP as undemocratic, elevating their own relative position as a democratic force in the process.

The PPD understood, however, that this approach ran the risk of bringing down the whole political framework, of which they themselves were of course part. Thus, they chose not to launch as fierce a struggle as would have been allowed by their support base in the Honam region and among dissident circles.

The PPD avoided an alliance with radical dissidents, fearing that to do so would cause them to be branded as "reformist." To this extent, the PPD found itself trapped in the "conservative reform structure." The PPD also avoided the temptation to work in close coordination with other Honam forces, fearing that to do so would only serve to stimulate the anti-Cholla mentality of non-Honam forces. Although this fear was genuine, it also served to prevent the party from attempting to forge links with anti-merger forces outside Honam.

The PPD was thus bound in two ways, first by the fact of its regional base and secondly by the fear of increasing its radical image. Thus, it found itself unable to conduct an all-out struggle to oppose the merger.

The RDP's Splinter Group—A Heavier Burden

The merger triggered an internal housekeeping within the PPD.

One group within the PPD advocated that Kim Tae-chung step down from the party presidency as a precondition for a merger between the PPD and the RDP. This group had existed before the merger that formed the DLP and has maintained its organization since that time despite efforts by elements of the new ruling party to lure them into the DLP.

Kim Tae-chung generally has succeeded at quelling internal PPD unrest. PPD Assembly Deputy Yi Sang-su called for Kim's resignation during a party assembly, but the PPD's mainstream rallied around Kim and built enough momentum to crush this proposal. The mainstream group manipulated the internal party atmosphere so as to defuse the resignation controversy, using a series of meetings at the party convention for this purpose.

Kim Tae-chung met daily with PPD assemblymen who composed the pro-merger group, including Cho Yun-hyong, Chong Tae-chol, Yi Sang-su, and Yi Hae-chan. Kim also met with the non-Honam group and convinced them that, "Now is the time to unite."

In addition to the above four PPD lawmakers, Assembly Deputies Kim Chong-wan, Yang Song-u, Yi Chol-yong, and Pak Sil also are numbered among the pro-merger group or are closely supporting its objectives.

The PPD's pro-merger group lost momentum temporarily when the RDP was absorbed into the DLP. Some turned their efforts toward boosting a pan-opposition party, but this movement lacked a unified devotion to their goals. The issue again turned on whether Kim Tae-chung's resignation was a precondition for the formation of a new opposition party.

The pro-merger faction regained strength as former RDP assemblymen broke away from the DLP.

Former RDP members who elected No to accompany their colleagues into the new DLP, like former RDP Vice President Yi Ki-taek, proved to be both bane and blessing to the PPD. The PPD was delighted, on the one hand, with the crushing blow these dissenters dealt to the image of Kim Yong-sam. But the group became increasingly burdensome to the PPD.

"As long as PPD President Kim Tae-chung remains in office," Yi Ki-taek declared, "a union with the PPD is impossible." Yi made this statement immediately after bolting from the old RDP as it merged with the ruling party. Opposition figures who hail from non-Honam regions and who had been prepared to join the PPD suddenly hesitated in the face of Yi's public call for Kim's resignation.

The pro-merger group within the PPD had once considered leaving the party, and they suddenly reverted to a wait-and-see attitude when the number of National Assemblymen controlled by former RDP Vice President Yi Ki-taek grew to more than five.

Yi will continue to solicit support from non-Cholla opposition forces to form a new opposition party, and the PPD will undergo difficulties in any attempt to eliminate dissent within opposition circles as long as Yi continues his drive for support.

The PPD believes that it can fill the vacuum in the opposition left by Kim Yong-sam's departure. In an attempt to fill this vacuum, the PPD has concentrated its efforts on winning over former RDP assemblymen who did not follow Kim Yong-sam into the DLP, and not incidentally improve the PPD's image in the process. Chances are, however, that a union between the two sides remains impossible as long as Kim Tae-chung serves as PPD president. Competition between the RDP splinter group and PPD has been relentless since the splinter group reached the five-deputy mark.

As soon as the call for his resignation went out, Kim Tae-chung declared that, "I am prepared to adopt a structure of collective leadership." Kim's statement suggested he was offering a share of his party authority in place of outright resignation. Kim also conceded unofficially that the PPD name could be changed.

PPD Core Difficulties in Unifying the Opposition

The PPD offered these concessions in support of the basic principle of opposition unity.

The concession does not appear to go far enough to allow the opposition unity envisaged by the PPD, however. Thus, the concession is seen as a symbolic gesture by the PPD to underscore that the party pays lip service to the ideal of opposition unity. The concession is viewed as an ineffective means of actually achieving the goal of pan-opposition unity.

The Korean opposition will continue for the time being as a triad composed of the PPD, the new opposition party, and the dissidents. The opposition must learn to live with the inherent failing of this arrangement.

The PPD is concentrating on recruiting members from across the full opposition spectrum. This simple approach should enable the PPD not only to claim leadership within the opposition but also improve its public image by expanding its membership base.

The PPD is committed to achieving an image as a truly national party. To accomplish this, the party has targeted opposition forces in the Yongnam and Chungchong regions for inclusion in the party. This has been a major focus of the PPD's recruitment drive.

Source say this is proving difficult for the PPD, however. The non-Cholla opposition forces' demands for Kim Tae-chung's resignation as PPD president have hampered the PPD's efforts to expand its base outside the Honam region.

The PPD has not disclosed the results of its recruitment drive. One prominent PPD lawmaker conceded, however, that "We have yet to arrive at a qualitative level which can improve the party's image."

The negative images of both Kim Tae-chung and the PPD will continue to hamper their recruitment attempts in both the Yongnam and Chungchong regions. Thus, the PPD is unlikely to be able to overcome a structural limitation to recruiting efforts in those regions.

Difficulties in the Recruiting Drive

Those who have committed themselves to PPD membership include dissident figures who favor Kim Tae-chung and who are scattered throughout academic, religious, and legal circles. The mainstream PPD group, of course, is composed of veteran politicians who make up the Tonggyo-tong circle.

A substantial number of former Kim Yong-sam supporters among the dissidents have also agreed to join the PPD. One source claims that a number of former public officials have also agreed to join the party. The number of prominent figures who have decided to join the PPD remains low, however. As a result, the PPD has not been able to enhance its image as it had wanted. Moreover, Kim Tae-chung's plan for collective party leadership remains outside the realm of possibility.

The PPD, meanwhile, has taken the unusual step of delaying its national party convention by a month, to April, in order to reap more success from its recruitment campaign. Many believe, however, that the campaign's success will remain limited so long as Kim Tae-chung remains in office.

The PPD mainstream and Kim himself remain adamant in their denouncement of calls for Kim's resignation. Their logic has it that the resignation of Kim Tae-chung would rob the opposition of a focal point, weakening their ranks and rendering them ineffective.

Kim Tae-chung has emerged as virtually the sole leader of the opposition forces following Kim Yong-sam's conversion to the ruling party, and the PPD insists that no reason or justification exists for asking Kim to step aside at this time.

Kim Tae-chung and the PPD, therefore, have adopted a wait-and-see attitude toward a unified opposition camp.

Kim Tae-chung and the mainstream party group have been watching intently those forces promoting a new opposition party. The PPD watched as these forces failed to come up with enough Assembly deputies to form a recognized negotiating body within the Assembly. A wide divergence of motives and personalities exists among those involved in promoting the new party. The PPD expects that these differences will surface as internal dissent, that those who advocate the new party will not be able to function to the fullest extent of their various abilities. Thus the PPD foresees that as time passes the situation will become increasingly favorable to itself.

"There has never been a political party without a political leader in Korea," Kim Tae-chung himself predicted. "Therefore, it is likely that those forces supporting a new opposition party may never evolve into a political party."

The Korean people, meanwhile, seem to expect pressure from within the PPD for a merger of opposition forces should differences between the PPD and the rest of the opposition sharpen. This seems to reflect a high degree of popular support for a two-party system. The PPD therefore anticipates that a trend toward support of a merger centered on Kim Tae-chung will pick up steam following local autonomy elections.

The PPD banks heavily on a strong performance in a large number of districts in the local autonomy elections. This would improve the PPD's negotiating position on an opposition merger. It is not clear at this time, however, just how well PPD candidates will do in the elections. Judging from the PPD's lack of success in its current recruitment campaign and from public opinion toward the party, it is doubtful whether the PPD will succeed in expanding its power in local elections.

The pressure for PPD President Kim to step aside could actually increase if the local elections reveal that the PPD has not been able to throw off its Cholla roots. This outcome would present the PPD with its greatest crisis yet.

PPD success in the local autonomy elections depends on two key issues. First, the degree of success attending the PPD's anti-DLP struggle in the future. Second, whether the PPD can boost the quantity and quality of those who chose to join their party.

Even Within the PPD Differences Exist in Regard to Kim Tae-chung's Optimism

Kim's future strategy begins with a propaganda campaign to sway public opinion against the DLP, the outcome of the three-party merger. A second offensive will be fought during the upcoming plenary assembly session. After that session, Kim plans on launching his drive to collect ten million signatures. In the final stage, Kim hopes to win big in local autonomy elections.

Kim Tae-chung has expressed optimism over the future of the political situation in Korea. Some observers question whether this is Kim's true belief, or whether he is merely attempting to infuse confidence in his supporters. In either case, Kim's protestation of confidence is worth examining.

Kim's optimistic outlook is based on the assumption that public opinion will run high against the DLP and that public condemnation will increase in the future. Kim sees this to be the case, hence his: "The people are behind us!"

Kim Tae-chung's optimism is based on several other factors as well. The three-party merger was engineered without regard for the desires of the Korean people. No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam, and Kim Chong-pil lost their ethicality during the process of the merger because of the lies they told, and in the case of the two Kims because they converted from the opposition to the ruling party. Finally, Kim Tae-chung believes that the merger of the three parties served to exacerbate the problem of regionalism in Korean politics. Thus, Kim expects public opinion against the merger to build in the near future. The Korean people are imbued with a strong consciousness of the need to restrain the new, massive, ruling party and its monopoly on power. Moreover, the Korean people seem to harbor an opposition-like mentality concerning economic policies, which protect vested interests. Kim Tae-chung believes the Korean people will want to provide aid to an opposition party for these reasons. The PPD is using the plenary session of the Assembly to pursue its propaganda campaign.

The PPD will maintain its anti-DLP struggle during the plenary session of the Assembly. The campaign will focus on issues such as abolishing the National Security Law and amending the law establishing the Agency for National Security Planning. The PPD hopes to depict the PPD-DLP confrontation as one between democratic and anti-democratic forces. The PPD prefers the Assembly as the locale for its major anti-DLP campaign because its deputies for outnumber all other non-DLP lawmakers in that body. The PPD hopes to use its overwhelming position in the Assembly to extend its leadership over the entire opposition camp.

Once the Assembly session is over, the PPD plans to carry out its anti-merger struggle at the popular level. They will attempt to accomplish this by launching their campaign to collect ten million signatures opposing the merger. If they are successful at this, then the PPD remains confident that it can defeat the DLP in subsequent local autonomy elections.

PPD President Kim Tae-chung boasted that, "If we have large election districts, we can prevent the DLP from winning a majority." Kim offered a strategy whereby the PPD would support independent candidates for local office in areas like Yongnam and Chungchon where the PPD is weak, while running PPD candidates with strong support in the Honam and Seoul areas.

If events turn out as Kim hopes they will, the DLP will collapse as a result of internal division. This is Kim's strategy for defeating the merged DLP.

Kim Tae-chung's optimism depends entirely on his ability to guide public opinion. Even within the PPD, however, a general belief prevails that the trend in public opinion is toward accepting the three-party merger as an established fact.

If so, it may be impossible to convince the public of the need to oppose the three-party merger, and Kim's optimistic plan would crumble at its very foundation.

The views of some PPD strategists differ greatly from those of Kim Tae-chung. These observers see a substantial possibility that the PPD's position will deteriorate as time passes.

These strategists offer a counter to Kim's rosy expectations for the outcome of local autonomy elections. The elections could result in demands for the PPD itself to dissolve, they argue, should the elections be held as early as about June 1990.

Kim's optimism must be regarded as whistling past the graveyard, considering the above, and Kim is not now in a position where he can launch a hard-line struggle.

Is There a Move That Could Bring Victory?

The PPD is not, however, totally without hope. The upcoming Assembly sessions hold great promise for success as a PPD battlefield. The PPD is currently the leader of the opposition camp, and from that position, it can inflict major damage on the DLP, attacking the anti-democratic nature of the ruling party. The PPD may succeed at influencing public opinion.

The PPD must gain acceptance for the notion of a two-party system, with the PPD and DLP facing off in a one-on-one relationship. If the PPD can do this at the Assembly session, then the situation may evolve to the PPD's advantage in the future.

A struggle for leadership within the DLP is also possible. Should this occur or should the DLP fail to satisfy the Korean people's expectations in implementing democratic policies, then opposition to the DLP may emerge on a large scale. Discontent with the three-party merger—in the person of the DLP—and an awareness of the need to maintain restraints on the ruling party will result. This would enhance the PPD's position significantly.

The PPD is waiting for the DLP to make a wrong move so that it can pounce and exploit the error to its own advantage. The PPD could easily benefit from dissent within higher echelons at the DLP, and a power struggle within the DLP would enable the PPD to launch a counterattack. The PPD feels certain that the DLP's reform policy has failed from the very beginning to capture the hearts of the Korean people.

The anti-government struggle of dissidents and activist circles could agitate the political situation at its very foundation. This is the final possibility for the PPD.

The dissidents and activists have already begun to set up battle lines. Their objective, they say, is to have a "popular vote to judge the illicit conservative union." If the activists' street struggles succeed at creating a measure of political instability, then the PPD can place the blame for the instability on the three-party merger. This immensely strengthens the PPD's political campaign against the DLP because it undercuts the chief justification for the three-party merger in the first place, that the merger enhanced the political stability most Koreans seek.

Although their interests overlap, the PPD assiduously avoids being identified with the radicals. The party merely intends to make use of the situation created by the dissident and radical camps in their struggle against the ruling party, while avoiding any allegations of responsibility for creating political unrest. The PPD will probably limit its active campaign against the DLP to its drive to collect ten million signatures.

There is one unknown quantity in this strategy, however. As we saw in the June 1987 revolution, an anti-government struggle led by dissidents and activists always has the potential to flare into a full-fledged people's struggle.

Conversely, activist extremism can also stimulate a strong popular desire for political stability. This outcome could serve to bolster the ruling party's position.

The Possibility of a Mass Resignation of PPD Assemblymen

Developments to date suggest that the PPD has not been successful even at mobilizing opposition forces against the merger. The party has also failed to carve out the ethical high ground by labeling the merged DLP as antidemocratic while it folds itself in the flag of democracy.

Kim Tae-chung, rest assured, has not abandoned his political ambitions. He also seems to be secure in his long-term strategy, at least by his own rights. It is doubtful, however, whether the PPD can successfully raise public opinion against the DLP. It also remains to be seen whether Kim's strategy to contain the damage and move on to victory in local autonomy elections will yield concrete results.

The Korean people seem to be accepting the three-party merger as an established fact as time trickles by, and the struggle against the merger will probably run out of strength in coming weeks.

Some observers believe that Kim Tae-chung has failed to formulate a concrete plan for future action. One cannot exclude the possibility, of course, that Kim may make a future move that will turn the tables.

Kim has several available alternatives. He can formally request the resignations of those in power. He can also successfully push for early elections by staging a mass resignation of PPD lawmakers from the Assembly, irrespective of possible DLP responses. Neither of these should be ruled out, because either could possibly serve to determine the political future of Kim Tae-chung.

If the PPD is successful in bringing about an early general election, then a united opposition with Kim Tae-chung at the center is possible. Under this scenario, the DLP would be unable to secure the number of votes needed for constitutional revision. The PPD could thus deliver a decisive blow to the three-party merger.

Minister Visits Hospitalized Kim Tae-chung

SK2604031490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Apr 90 p 2

[From the "out and about" column—"Kim Tae-chung in Hospital"]

[Text] First State Minister for Political Affairs Kim Yun-hwan visited PPD leader Kim Tae-chung in hospital yesterday to discuss arranging a meeting between President No Tae-u and the opposition leader. The PPD president was admitted to the Yonsei University Hospital Monday for treatment of a sore throat and high blood pressure.

Emerging from the meeting with the opposition leader, Minister Kim told reporters he expects that the proposed talks between No and Kim will be held after the ruling DLP's inaugural national convention slated for May 9.

"I've conveyed to Kim the President's position of welcoming such talks," the minister said, adding the PPD leader also expressed his wish to meet the President at an early date.

Police Arrest Pilot for KAL Crash in Libya

SK2604055190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Police have arrested the cockpit crew of the Korean Air (KAL) jetliner that crashed near Tripoli Airport last July, killing 74 passengers, on charges of accidental homicide, the prosecution said Thursday [26 April].

Kim Ho-chun, 54, pilot of KAL Flight 803, Choe Chae-hong, 57, co-pilot, and Hyon Kyu-hwan, 53, flight engineer, were charged with accidental homicide and violating the aviation law as a result of the Seoul District prosecution's investigation into flight data and questioning of concerned officials.

On the accidental homicide charge they can be sentenced to five years in jail or fined up to 2 million won (2,857 U.S. dollars), and on the aviation law charge they can get three years or a fine of up to 5 million won (7,143 dollars).

After the ground proximity warning system of the DC-10 proved to have functioned properly, all other causes except pilot error were ruled out. The crash claimed 74 lives out of 199 people aboard and six Libyans were killed when the jet ploughed into an orchard.

Prosecutors accused Kim of making an "unjustifiable" bid to land at the fog-shrouded airport on July 29, 1989, without close examination of weather conditions. He knew from the April issue of NOTAM (Notice Airmen) that the Non-directional beacon radio range (NDB) of the airport was working but that the instrument landing system (ILS) was out of order, they charged.

Prosecutors blamed Choe for ignoring the warning by Tripoli air controllers that visibility was only 50 meters, not reporting it to the pilot and failing to know that the jet was plunging at a speed of 2,000 feet per minute, three times faster than usual.

Hyon was charged with neglecting his duty to inform the pilot of the exact height of the plane continuously during the landing approach.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Stresses Importance of Peace, Stability

BK2504094490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 25 (BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed has called for the preservation of peace and stability, adding that once anarchy breaks out, it will be difficult to restore the situation as is evident in other countries. In a prepared message to mark the Id al-Fitr celebrations, he said no one, be they Muslims or non-Muslims, will benefit if the country's stability and peace are shattered.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy the ongoing economic recovery and existing national stability had enabled the implementation of many development projects. "Sound national economic growth is not merely a pride for the government but is something which benefits the people as a whole," he added.

Dr Mahathir warned of severe consequences if the nation was beset with problems such as strikes, demonstrations, use of force to topple the government, racial riots, and other actions outside of the law which frequently occurred in other countries. "But all these do not happen in our country because the majority of the people value stability and unity. Malaysians also respect the power entrusted to government agencies such as the police and military to safeguard peace and security," he said.

He said attempts to obstruct the police from discharging their duties or taking the law into one's own hands was very dangerous. If one group made such attempts, others would try to follow, he added. There would then be a breakdown in social order and anarchy would break out. He said: "If this were to happen, our lives will no longer be safe."

Mahathir Comments on Former Premier's Remarks

BK2504114990 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Apr 90 p 1

[By K. Vijiyan]

[Text] Ipoh, Monday [23 April]—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed tonight advised former prime minister Tunku [Malay royal title] Abdul Rahman not to lower himself in the eyes of the people. He said he personally wanted to respect and look up to the Tunku as the Father of Independence.

"He doesn't like me and this is obvious. But this doesn't prevent me from looking up to someone who is older than me," he told a press conference at the menteri besar's [chief minister's] residence after meeting Perak UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth members.

"To a certain extent we contributed to the Tunku's success in Kedah. We have supported him previously, so the least he can do now is to support us."

Asked about the Tunku's denial of a statement made to a Singapore newspaper which quoted him as saying that the Malays did not know how to do business, Dr. Mahathir said he had not heard about the denial. " I don't know about this, but we do know this has been the Tunku's stand from before. "We want to forget it but he keeps on reminding us."

When a reporter remarked that the Tunku was getting old, the prime minister said: "It is better for him not to lower himself to this level. We want to continue to look up to him. "It is difficult to look up to a person who has lowered himself."

Asked whether he thought the Tunku's feelings were parallel to that of Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46—a party made up of UMNO dissidents], Dr. Mahathir said: "Maybe a little. The Tunku is Semangat 46's adviser. "In that case, the Tunku can tell Semangat 46 members not to get involved in business. We also won't need the New Economic Policy anymore."

Dr. Mahathir said he was disappointed with the Tunku's reported remarks about the ability of the Malays.

"We don't want to hear about things we didn't agree upon with him before. It was such matters that resulted in UMNO losing faith in the Tunku after 1969. "We want to forget but I'm very sad as the Tunku likes to remind us of such matters. By rights he should forget them and we will continue to respect and remember him as Bapa Malaysia [Father of Malaysia] and Bapa Kemerdekaan [Father of Independence]."

Dr. Mahathir said the Tunku's reported statement was not based on facts. "It is true previously Malays only wanted to enter the civil service and the Chinese into business. Now with proper training, we have proven that Malays can also succeed in business like Azman Hashim (Arab Malaysian Bank) and Shamsuddin Kadir (of Sapura Holdings).

"The government is giving the Malays opportunities and training to make them successful businessmen. The Tunku should instead be asking that Malays be given more training and help."

On the MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress], Dr. Mahathir said he did not intend to intervene in the quarrel between MIC President Datuk Sri S. Samy Vellu and his deputy Datuk S. Subramaniam.

12 Thai Fishermen Fined for Illegal Fishing

BK2204124890 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] The Kuala Terengganu Magistrate Court has imposed fines amounting to 2.1 million ringgit or prison terms between four and six months on 12 Thai fishermen who pleaded guilty to illegal fishing in two areas within the Exclusive Economic Zone near Terengganu. All of them failed to pay the fines, while two underaged fishermen were released. They were detained by two patrol ships of the Royal Malaysian Navy. Their boats were towed away to Chendering Port last night.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Officer Says Forces Pulling Back

BK2504154490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Bangkok, April 25 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government plans to pull its forces out of three strategic positions in northwestern Cambodia near the Thai border to beef up its defences around the town of Sisophon, a Cambodian army officer said Wednesday [25 April]. Captain Chea Nearin told Thai reporters at the border that Phnom Penh planned to withdraw its troops from the villages of Banteay Chhma, Thmar Puok and Svay Chek, which are key defensive positions along Highway 69 which runs north of the Banteay Meanchey Province seat of Sisophon.

Sisophon, a key road and rail junction linking Cambodia's border town of Poipet with the provincial seats of Battambang and Siem Reap, is the main supply and munitions depot for Hanoi-backed government forces in northwestern Cambodia. Svay Chek, Thmar Puok and Banteay Chhma were recaptured by a Phnom Penh mechanized infantry force last month, after having fallen into guerrilla hands at the beginning of their dry season offensive earlier this year. Phnom Penh's field commanders consider the positions "untenable," because the local people in those areas side with the resistance, Capt. Rinh said. He said the troops were to be redeployed around Sisophon to "reduce the risk of a direct attack" on the town. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Meanwhile, an officer of the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge guerrillas told reporters on the Thai-Cambodian border that the Marxist guerrillas were engaged in "heavy fighting" with government forces in Tamnak Chek, Phum Takong Krao and Phum Nam-sap [placenames as received] villages, some 20 kilometres inside Battambang Province. The officer did not give any details of the fighting, but Thai villagers along the border said they could clearly hear the sounds of artillery fire deep inside Cambodia. The Marxist Khmer Rouge, the military backbone of the resistance coalition which includes two non-communist factions, is fighting to oust a government in Phnom Penh installed by Vietnam some 11 years ago.

Government Troops Fighting To Retake Staung

BK2604110690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1043 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, April 26 (AFP)—Government troops were attempting to retake the small central Cambodian city of Staung that was recently overrun by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, a Phnom Penh official said here Thursday [26 April]. "Our forces are currently trying to retake this district seat," lying about 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Kompong Thom, the official said, adding that the earlier Khmer Rouge push "only succeeded as a result of negligence." "More than 1,000 Khmer Rouge, composed of local elements reinforced by fighters coming from Thailand and supported by the Son Sann faction, attacked the city and we were overwhelmed by their numbers," he said. "It is the first time that the Khmer Rouge have succeeded in taking a district seat in the country's interior," said the source, who termed the event "worrisome."

Staung is located on the strategic highway linking Phnom Penh, Kompong Thom and Siem Reap, and lies north of the huge central Cambodian lake, Tonle Sap. Cambodia's former monarch, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said Tuesday in Bangkok that the Khmer Rouge was seeking to isolate Siem Reap and Kompong Thom. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges Continued Efforts Against Enemy

BK2504113790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 24 Apr 90

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Accelerate More Vigorously the Ultimate Campaign of the Dry Season by Continuing To Attack and Crush the Enemies To Prevent Them From Rearing Their Heads Again"]

[Text] With the effective use of joint forces, combined tactics, and concerted means five months ago after the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia, our State of Cambodia has steadily advanced and consolidated its position of strength and victory over the enemy. On the battlefield, our Armed Forces have maintained their absolute military superiority while the Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann enemies have been continually defeated by our Armed Forces and people. The surviving enemy officers and rank and file are dispirited and discouraged, and many thousands have given up fighting and have surrendered.

In the first period of the ultimate campaign of this dry season offensive, our Armed Forces scored great victories. Although the reactionary forces of the Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann groups had intensified their destructive activities and senseless offensives against our positions in the western region of the country, they have not been able to alter our position of might on the battlefield. Our Armed Forces and people have so far been able to preserve their superiority and position of strength and victory over the enemies in all fields. All local armed units throughout the country have upheld their mastery and have continued to cooperate in fighting the enemies and preventing them from rearing their heads again. Our regular armed units such as the 4th, 6th, 179th, and 286th divisions, unattached regiments and dependent battalions, and others, with the cooperation of regional Armed Forces in Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Banteay Meanchey Provinces and other outstanding combatants, have achieved great successes in battling the enemies to firmly defend the motherland and national independence on the battlefields of Svay Chek, Pang Roloem, Thmar Puok, and others.

By actively and jointly battling the enemies at the front, our people have always with the regular and regional Armed Forces fought all enemies in the rear battlefield as well. As a result of the spirit of fighting the enemies, we have, during the past six months since the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, put out of action 4,743 enemy soldiers, killing 3,669, capturing 670, and forcing 389 to surrender. We seized 2,525 assorted weapons, 389 tonnes of ammunition for various guns, 356 different mines, 30 sets of radio-communication ICOM, and a significant quantity of war materiel.

The year 1990 is when our struggle against the enemies became the most intense, decisive, and complicated, militarily, politically, and diplomatically. As such, we should strive to maintain and expand our positions and strength to prevent the enemies from gaining superiority over us. At present, the entire party, Armed Forces, and people should more vigorously uphold solidarity and unity both politically and ideologically. To win decisively, we should use our experience in the first period of this dry season offensive to zealously fight them in the second period. To increase and successfully enhance the ultimate campaign in this offensive, the entire party, Armed Forces, and people should continue their drive to crush the enemies for a complete victory. All localities throughout the country should heighten their fighting spirit and be combat ready at all times by encouraging militiamen and people to attack and decimate the enemies in order to defend and promote the stability of the localities.

It is important to effectively implement the advice of General Secretary Heng Samrin given at the meeting to mark the 60th founding anniversary of the Indochinese Communist Party. His advice is that the entire party, Armed Forces, and people should heighten their responsibility for the fate and future of the nation and motherland. They should be well aware of the revolution's progress and the disintegration of the enemies divided by internal conflicts and heading toward a complete downfall. They should clearly understand the rights and benefits they have acquired from the new regime, and should gather all means to uphold their fighting and self-reliant spirits to expand their position of mastery in the task of national defense. They should moderately promote national pride at this historical juncture and be resolute in achieving the final goal as defined by the party and the state. The spirit of the ultimate campaign in the second offensive will totally prevail over the three groups of enemies. We are resolved to continue our attacks against the enemies to score new successes and to inflict constant and serious setbacks on them.

Bou Thang Receives Message From SRV Official

BK2604072990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] On the occasion of the Cambodian traditional New Year, Comrade General Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF], received a greetings message from Comrade Gen. Nguyen Quyet, chief of the General Political Department of the Vietnamese People's Army. The message reads:

I would like to convey best wishes to you and, through you, the cadres, combatants, and staff of the CPAF General Political Department on the occasion of the New Year. May all of you have good health and new successes in the implementation of your tasks, as well as happiness in your lives. May the relations of solidarity and special friendship and cooperation between our two parties, states, peoples, and departments further strengthen and improve.

SRV Regiment Commander Reportedly Killed

BK2604013490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] On 20 April, the national resistance forces attacked a number of villages east of Sanko township in Kompong Svay District, Kompong Thom Province. We killed or wounded some Vietnamese puppet soldiers. A Vietnamese regiment commander named Ba Son was killed during the attack. Ba Son was the regiment commander who recently led troops in defense of Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts. During the fighting, the national resistance forces instantly killed the Vietnamese commander on the battlefield.

Indonesia

Suharto Says 'Vietnam Should Not Be Isolated'

BK2604034090 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 20 Apr 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Suharto believes that for the sake of regional resilience in Southeast Asia, Vietnam should not be isolated and must instead be invited to cooperate in various fields.

Speaking during his meeting with Dr. Ruslan Abdulgani, chief of the Presidential Adviser Group on the Implementation of Pancasila Ideology Indoctrination, at his Cendana Street residence on Thursday [19 April], the head of state stressed the importance of such cooperation with Vietnam. He said: "In the framework of safeguarding peace in Southeast Asia, we must try to open up Vietnam, and should never isolate it."

During the meeting, Ruslan reported to the president on the outcome of his recent visit to Vietnam to attend celebrations marking the 100th birth anniversary of Ho Chi Minh. The celebrations were organized by the Vietnamese Government and UNESCO, because the UN agency viewed Ho Chi Minh as a leader who had paid much attention to the growth of Asian culture as well as a patriot with a strong sense of nationalism, apart from the fact that he was also a communist.

The celebrations were attended by delegates from 70 countries, including the United States, the PRC, the Soviet Union, France, and the FRG.

Ruslan said that Vietnam is currently restructuring the country so that it can be more open in the future. "Therefore, Vietnam is interested in Indonesia's ideas, including those on foreign investment," he said.

Ruslan noted that there is already a network of cooperation in various areas between ASEAN countries and Vietnam, including Garuda national airlines' flights to Ho Chi Minh City and banking and trade links. Such cooperation can be further upgraded in the future, he said.

Oil Company Views Japan-Funded Refinery Project

BK2604074590 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0643 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Jakarta, April 25 (OANA/ANTARA)—Fund of over 2 billion US dollars is needed for the construction of a fuel oil refinery in the West Java town of Balongan, President Director of the state-owned Pertamina oil company Faisal Abda'u disclosed here Wednesday [25 April]. Replying to questions on the planned construction, he said the total cost has included the interest rate carried by loans needed for the project, while if it was excluded, the total cost would only total 1.8 billion dollars,

According to Abda'u, this financial problem is now under negotiation and an agreement on that matter is expected to be concluded soon.

Having a capacity of refining 125,000 barrels of crude oil per day, it would process crude oil of Duri and Minas types into fuel oil, with first priority given to domestic markets.

An agreement on engineering sector was signed Monday by Abda'u and several businessmen representing companies involved in the construction. They comprised JGC [Japan Gas Company Corporation] President E. Watanabe, T. M. Evans of Foster Wheeler, T. Homa of Mitsui and Co., President of Far East Oil Trading A. Imao and G. Harvey of British Petroleum Southeast Asia.

Under the agreement, which is in nature still on the stage of engineering procurement, construction and offtake, the state-owned company will cooperate with Foster Wheeler in engineering sector, Japan Gas Company Corporation dealing with marketing, and Mitsui on fund procurement.

Mitsui would also involve five leading Japanese companies, viz. C. Itoh, Toyo Menka Kaisha Ltd., Sumitomo Corporation, Nisho Iwai, and Marubeni Corporation in the fund procurement, he noted.

The oil refinery is expected to be completed within two years.

Minister Affirms Commitment to Free Trade

BK2504100590 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 20 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Radius Prawiro yesterday reiterated Indonesia's strong commitment to free trade, saying its economic growth depended largely on the continued expansion of world trade. Radius told a conference of American businessmen that Indonesia was further dismantling many of the import restrictions that were a legacy of its bountiful oil years.

"Our industrial export sector is far too valuable to our economy for us to jeopardize by not contributing as much as possible toward increased world trade flows," the minister told the opening session of the 43rd semiannual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC).

Indonesia, he added, was increasingly willing and able to meet international competition head on and was committed to an open trading system. He noted, however, that even though world trade was expected to grow this year significant problems loomed on the horizon.

One of the major problems was the persistent trade imbalances between the world's major trading nations such as the United States, Japan, and West Germany, Radius said. "Another problem which is of concern to all of us is protectionism. The U.S. seems genuinely committed to free trade but the body politic at the moment seems increasingly influenced by protectionist sentiments," he pointed out.

Immediately after the opening plenary session, the meeting, attended by over 125 businessmen and American diplomats, went into closed-door sessions to discuss various issues of concern to American companies operating in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We will issue resolutions on various issues, notably trade and investments, at the end of this meting on Saturday [21 April]," James Castle, president of Amcham [American Chamber of Commerce] Indonesia which is hosting the conference, told THE JAKARTA

POST. Castle said the resolutions would be based on an exchanges of views among delegates from various countries in the region.

But the resolutions, aimed at improving American business operations in the region, would be submitted only to the U.S. government in Washington and not to the host governments of American companies, Castle added.

U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia John C. Monjo, who also addressed the opening session, said his government was particularly interested in the views of American businessmen about their operations in the region. "I am sure that your deliberations and your communique will provide important information for everyone trying to improve economic conditions in the region," Monjo added.

Earlier in his address, Radius briefed the American businessmen on the great transformation of the Indonesian economy over the last seven years as a result of a series of reform measures taken by the government. He said the reform measures, notably deregulation moves, had made the economy more efficient, markedly improved the investment climate and made Indonesian exports more competitive on the world market.

Citing several indicators of the buoyant economic outlook, Radius said new domestic and foreign investment approvals last year totalled $16 billion, non-oil exports expanded by 19 percent to $13 billion and the country's Gross Domestic Product grew in real terms by over six percent to the equivalent of $100 billion, the largest in the ASEAN region and one of the largest in Asia.

Trade Minister on Trade Concession to Partners

BK2404131990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1028 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 24 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia is prepared to give trade concession to its trade partners if it is also given similar concessions by them, Trade Minister Arifin Siregar stated here Tuesday [24 April]. He spoke to newsmen after paying a call on President Suharto at his Jalan Cendana mansion [private residence] here, where he reported to the head of state the results of a recent informal meeting to discuss the Uruguay Round in Mexico City on 18 to 20 April.

The Mexico meeting was held to ensure that the Uruguay Round due to be completed in Brussels, Belgium, later this year, would be a success.

"Indonesia is prepared to give concessions in other fields if we also get similar concessions as we have been giving a lot of concessions, such as in the field of intellectual property rights," The minister said. He said that the Indonesian attitude in the giving and taking of the trade concessions is normal among the signatories of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

The minister refused to disclose what kind of concessions there are to be given by Indonesia, but said that Indonesia has to be prepared to give concession in certain fields to its trade partners if it wants to penetrate into its partners' markets.

He went on to say that ministers and ranking government officials who attended the Mexico meeting agreed to be more active in their effort to make the multilateral trade negotiation a success.

Minister Siregar further said that Indonesia hoped that the Uruguay Round would achieve its goal to put all trade activities in the world in order. He cited as an example that in 1989, although there were some constraints, Indonesia's exports of textile and textile products increased by 35 per cent compared with the previous year.

Last year, Indonesia's export value of textile and textile products were recorded at two billion U.S. dollars. If there were no constraints, he said, the figure would be higher. With the success of the Uruguay Round, he hoped that the trade constraints could be reduced.

Domestic Demand To Limit Cement Exports

BK2504101590 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0842 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 25 (OANA/ANTARA)—As from 1991, Indonesian cement exports will be limited to 2.5 million tons per year to secure the constantly increasing domestic need for the vital building material, the Directorate General of Base Chemical Industries disclosed here Wednesday [25 April].

The country's cement production capacity currently stands at 17.41 million tons per year, and the actual 1989/90 output reached only 15,636,000 tons, including 11,412,000 tons for domestic consumption and 4,112,000 tons for export.

Indonesia's 1990/91 cement needs were estimated to increase to 12.78 million tons, while actual production would stand at 16.37 million tons, so that exports will have to be cut to 3.25 million tons.

In 1991/92, cement production was estimated to reach 16.71 million tons, while domestic needs for the building material would reach 14.O6 million tons, so that as from that particular period, exports would have to be limited to a maximum of 2.5 million tons per annum.

With an installed capacity of 17.41 million tons, a shortage of cement was predicted in 1992/93 as domestic consumption would reach 15.18 million tons, in addition to exports of 2.5 million tons.

For these reasons the expansion of the production capacity of 5.187 million tons of four cement plants is expected to be completed in 1992/93, preventing a shortage in the construction material, said Director General of Base Chemical Industries Wardiyasa earlier this week in response to a question posed by one of the cement producers on the possible shortage if up to 1992 the production capacity is not increased.

The four cement factories whose production capacity is being raised are PT Semen Padang by 600,000 tons, PT Semen Gresik by 1.5 million tons, PT Semen Tonasa by 1.58 million tons, and PT Semen Cibinong by 1.5 million tons.

Laos

USSR Ambassador Gives Lenin Birthday Speech

BK2604094590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Speech by Yuriy Mikheyev, USSR ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, delivered at a rally in Vientiane on 22 April—recorded in Russian fading into Lao translation]

[Text] Today, we, together with you—the Lao people—are commemorating Vladimir Ilich Lenin's 120th birth anniversary. Lenin's line of thinking has been profoundly and deeply imbedded in the hearts and minds of mankind. As for his actual deeds, they have changed the world to the point that he is still regarded as the man of our time. Lenin displayed his great virtue by persistently acting as leader of the Great October Socialist Revolution—an event regarded as an advancement of historic significance toward the world's future, which has had decisive effects on the destiny of the Soviet state and the world.

Our people accomplished their choice of historic significance in October 1917 and accepted the most difficult task of being the foremost pioneers in building society by walking along the path toward socialism. Lenin stressed that socialism could not instantly bring about happiness to the people, as if it were a magic wand. The path leading toward socialism was not a straight and easy road, and the course of advancement of that path could not be permanently utilized once it was charted. Socialism always meets with eventful and complicated crises and hostile phenomena. In creating a new society and in departing from one era to enter into another, we must pass through difficulties both in the subjective and objective aspects.

Thanks to the spirit of enthusiasm and the alertness of the masses, our state was able to successfully pass through the path we had pioneered and resolve complicated and confusing problems cropping up along the path in constructing the socialist system. That was why we managed to foil all armed attempts to destroy the fruits of the October revolution, to install industrial foundations that could develop further, and to successfully fulfill the cultural revolution. In addition, we also managed to score many other achievements in resolving ethnic minority problems and to do away with the cultural vestiges left behind by the tsarist regime.

The socialist system subsequently expanded beyond the territorial line of our country, and the world's new social system eventually emerged. All these changes clearly reflected and testified to the strength generated through the course and the line of thinking of Vladimir Ilich Lenin for the sake of social progress. The lessons drawn from Vladimir Ilich Lenin's leadership in guiding a young socialist state constituted a model of political adroitness for our people. It also constituted a model for us in consistently enriching the theory of building a new society and for changing the forms and methods of social management by realizing the era and subjectivity of social development.

Marxism is a resourceful theory and is characterized by consistent development. It totally rejects all static theories and all schools of blind and rigid thought. The profound understanding of these facts must be attributed to the guidance provided by the Bolshevik party under the leadership of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, who never feared to admit his own shortcomings and mistakes and who dared to make political changes. In deciding to overcome the extreme leftist revolutionary line of thinking and to implement the communist principles in building society, Vladimir Ilich Lenin proved that it was impossible to bypass any stages of socialist construction. He also made it clear that no coercive measures be allowed to be practiced against mankind. Routine work must be carried out thoroughly to gain the people's confidence. The accounting of reality in socioeconomic development and the maturity of social consciousness have replaced the extremely hasty revolutionary line of thinking.

At present, the CPSU is trying to fully rectify the method in studying Leninism by relying on a comprehensive and profound analysis of the theory and essence of the socialist system and the actual circumstances in socialist construction in each period of development. Otherwise, the genuinely scientific study and the overall assessment of our people's path of history will be meaningless. The drawing of the first lesson on socialist economic construction was profoundly meaningful.

Vladimir Ilich Lenin changed and took the country out of the state of equality, of the working system of equality and generalization, and of the centralized and inflexible form of economic management and put it into a new political and economic line. [sentence as heard] He was determined to promote efforts to recognize the system of multiformed socialist ownership and to approve the consolidation of commodity-money relations, small industries, freedom in conducting trade, the utilization of potentials in building integrated factories, the signing of contracts, and so forth.

Vladimir Ilich Lenin understood that to increase the efficiency of an economy, that economy must be directed to serve the people. The economic reforms currently being carried out in the Soviet Union have mostly derived from the characteristics of Lenin's line of thinking regarding his new political and economic lines, which have been accepted as being suitable to the new reality. The foundation of economic reforms in our country is the thorough and consistent implementation of perestroyka regarding the relations of the system of ownership. We follow a direction by which all forms of socialist ownership are allowed to develop freely. However,a man-exploiting-man system cannot be permitted. With regard to this issue, the party has envisaged a long-term process of rectifying the economic management mechanisms. Many large factories are able to fulfill their tasks in maintaining economic relations with foreign countries. This means that industrial factories are given the right to deal with foreign markets and that integrated factories can be set up, while a new, progressive form of international cooperation has also been developed.

Vladimir Ilich Lenin understood that the socialist system was a genuinely democratic society. He defined the all-around and profound characteristics of socialist democracy. Lenin's concept on democracy constitutes the primary direction of perestroyka in the political system, which has been implemented at the initiative of the CPSU. The primary direction of political reform has been formulated in the content and spirit of Lenin's principle. The principle says full power must be guaranteed for the councils, which are the foundation for the administration of the socialist state. To attain the people's genuine power is to implement Vladimir Ilich Lenin's principle regarding self-determination in finding the people's socialist path to follow, the enhancement of glasnost or openness, mutual criticism, self-criticism, the holding of elections, the reviewing of reports, the rotation of personnel holding certain positions, and the struggle against bureaucratic phenomena.

The immediate problem facing the Soviet Union is the question of bringing back Lenin's principle. In suggesting that the ugly nature of bureaucratism must never be allowed to create adverse effects on the concept of unification, Vladimir Ilich Lenin said attempts must be made to avoid the doctrine of inflexible centralism. He said attention must be paid to strengthening the sovereignty and independence of the various Soviet states as well as the necessary conditions for promoting cohesion among the people in the entire country. He laid down the principle for self-determination in selecting a path to be followed by each nation, including a path for separation. However, he was resolutely opposed to secession from the Union.

At the same time, Lenin made all-out efforts to create conditions for carrying out development in the economic, political, and cultural fields by all ethnic nationalities within the Soviet state and other autonomous states. Regarding this, all nationalities and ethnic groups within the Soviet Union were granted extensive rights to heighten their respective economic and cultural levels. Based on Lenin's advice, instructions, and recommendations, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was established.

Lenin's line of thinking still possesses special meaning and value under the present circumstances, because it is also the line of progressive, dynamic, and ever-changing thinking of the working class and entire Soviet people. Lenin was opposed to attempts to create segmentation of all types in organizations and their respective regulations. However, in opposing segmentation, he also agreed with the holding of debates and the proposing of various programs of work within the party. He regarded such activities as genuine democratic phenomena of the communist parties. To rectify its past mistakes, the CPSU has endorsed the political initiative in which a new political line has been tabled, that is, to carry out perestroyka in society.

While advancing toward its 28th congress, the CPSU has drafted a program of political actions and new regulations designed to serve the task of consolidating Soviet society into carrying out constructive duties. Lenin's scientific heritage is the great and intellectual richness of our party, the entire Soviet people, and progressive mankind. While revolutionary perestroyka is being carried out at present, Lenin's principle is also being consolidated regarding socialist construction with a view to transforming it into its previous form.

We, the Soviet nationals working in Laos, have witnessed the actual application of Lenin's line of thinking in your country in a creative manner in line with special local circumstances. We have witnessed the implementation of the political line regarding Lenin's new-type economy in accordance with actual conditions here. Moreover, you have fulfilled the first stage of creating a legal system, gradually developing democracy and improving the management mechanisms. I wish you and the entire Lao people success in fulfilling the plans and tasks of building a new society in Laos, outlined at the Fourth Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress and the plenary sessions of the party Central Committee.

May the line of thinking of great Lenin live for centuries! Long live Soviet-Lao friendship. Thank you.

Philippines

Ramos Wants U.S. Bases 'Gradually Phased Out'

HK2604092590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Manila, April 26 (AFP)—Philippine Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said Thursday U.S. military bases in the country should be gradually phased out until 1998 as local troops are not yet fully capable of protecting the country. Stressing that he was stating a personal opinion, the former armed forces chief told foreign correspondents that in studying the issue of the bases, Manila must be careful not to undermine its own security and stability. The Philippines must develop its "self-reliant posture" before the U.S. bases are dismantled, he said, and called for joint use of U.S. facilities at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base to help attain this goal. Supporting a U.S. view, he said the presence of the bases here "does substantially contribute" to regional stability.

Asked if he was maintaining his earlier proposal for a gradual phaseout of the bases, he said yes, and noted that 1998 would mark the centennial of the Philippines' declaration of independence from Spain. The first Philippine Republic was inaugurated on June 12, 1898, only to be crushed later by U.S. colonial troops. The United States granted independence to the Philippines in 1946 but has kept major military bases in the islands.

Mr. Ramos' call for a gradual phaseout departs from President Corazon Aquino's official stand of keeping "options open" on the future of the U.S. bases, whose current lease expires in September 1991. Exploratory talks on the bases' future are scheduled to start here in May amid mounting calls to end the U.S. military presence. Mr. Ramos cited the mutual defence treaty under which Washington would aid Manila in case of an attack by a third country, and emphasized that the Philippine islands' coastline is longer than that of the United States. "The Philippines is specially vulnerable because of our vast coastline, which we cannot surveil, much less protect," he said.

Apparently referring to Soviet pledges for a military withdrawal from Asia, he said "more than the declarations," there must be an actual reduction. He likened the country to a person with a heavily armed neighbor. "We must be reasonably sure that we can protect our own household," he said. Mr. Ramos did not specify a potential aggressor but seemed to be referring to Vietnam, which hosts Soviet forces at Cam Ranh Bay, a U.S. facility during the Vietnam War.

Separately, he said the Philippines was facing problems including insurgency and economic difficulties. Most of the country's 160,000-strong armed forces are occupied fighting communist guerrillas, Moslem separatists and—since 1986—renegade soldiers, whose sixth and most serious bid to topple Mrs. Aquino took place only last December.

Mr. Ramos refused to comment on his own reputed presidential ambitions, saying he occupied a vital post and was busy maintaining national stability. He said if he "(started) politicking... this will not add to stability," adding "it might make some people insecure." Mrs. Aquino has denied that she will seek reelection after her current term ends in 1992. Mr. Ramos helped install her as president during a popular revolt in 1986, and has since defended her through six attempted coups.

Meanwhile, a ruling coalition congressman, Jose de Venecia, urged Washington to intitiate quiet cost-sharing talks with other countries he said were "getting a free ride on these Philippine bases." Speaking at a diplomatic forum here Thursday, Mr. de Venecia said Washington should negotiate with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait regarding possible use of petroleum credits to be used solely for the Moslem-populated southern Philippine island of Mindanao. U.S. officials have said the Philippine bases extend Washington's air and naval reach from the western Pacific to the Gulf region and protect vital oil tanker lanes from the Middle East producers to east Asia. Mr. de Venecia told reporters he had filed a bill setting a 750 million dollar annual rent for the bases under a treaty to run until the year 2,000, with other countries benefiting from the presence of the bases and sharing rent payments. He named Japan, South Korea, middle eastern and southeast Asian countries as possible participants in the scheme. This has to be done under terms of burden-sharing," he said. "You must consider the financial position of your negotiating partner on the other side." Washington has said it cannot afford significant rises in compensation for the bases due to budget problems.

Favors Continued Good Ties

HK2604105790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos announced that the United States and the Philippines should continue to maintain excellent relations and rapport with one another. According to Secretary Ramos, the two countries should cooperate for mutual interests and help uphold freedom and democracy.

The defense chief did not say directly that he favors the maintenance of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The two countries are to hold exploratory talks next month. Meanwhile, it is believed the majority of legislators do not support the extension of the Philippines-U.S. military bases agreement.

Ramos Assures Foreigners of Security in Manila

HK2604095790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 26 Apr 90

[By Jonathan Cristobal from Camp Aguinaldo]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today gave assurances about the security of American tourists and travellers in Manila, stressing there was no reason for them to worry about their safety. Ramos made the statement in light of a travel advisory issued by the U.S. military authorities to U.S. Air Force and Navy personnel at Clark and Subic bases, warning them against making unofficial trips to Manila. They were also told not to use public transport vehicles in travelling from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to Clark Air Base. Ramos was speaking at a news conference organized by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines at the Midtown Ramada Hotel.

The defense chief maintained that the security situation in the country, notably in Manila, remains stable and that there was no reason for alarm among foreigners in the country. He added that the coming 1 May Labor Day demonstration is the primary concern of police and military authorities in the immediate future. However, he said that similar demonstrations have been held peacefully in the past two years. [passage indistinct]

Over 55 Million Pesos Allotted for Bases Study

HK2604055390 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 26 Apr 90 p 7

[By staff writers Julius Fortuna and Miguel C. Genovea]

[Text] The government has set aside more than P [Pesos] 55 million to hasten studies for the transfer of American air and naval bases to Philippine use, sources at the Joint Executive-Legislative Council on the bases said yesterday. The disclosure came as Rep. Martin Isidro (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Manila), assistant house majority leader, expressed fears that the more than 60,000 hectares turned over to the Philippines by the United States in 1979, may already have been titled to various individuals.

Planners attached to the council said they expect President Aquino to release the P55 million before the start of the exploratory talks on May 14. Last month, they said, Mrs. Aquino ordered the release of P35 million, with P20 million coming from the Public Estates Authority (PEA) and P15 million from the Office of the President. UP [University of the Philippines] president Jose Abueva, who heads the council, had secured the approval last month of the full budget, a council document said. Of the P55,030,000 total budget, P4,477,224 will be for salaries, P5,457,996 for maintenance, and P555,000 for furniture and office equipment. The biggest outlay will be for the actual feasibility studies, amounting to P44,540,004.

The government is preparing preliminary studies on the bases in time for the scheduled presidential move to advise the Americans on the termination of the Military Bases Agreement on September 16, 1990. Isidro, in a letter to Abueva, said he had received about the released private titling of baselands. He said if these were true, it would definitely affect the conversion program of the government. The Tondo solon had earlier urged Mrs. Aquino through a resolution to immediately implement conversion plans without awaiting the results of the exploratory talks. To get the true status of the baselands turned over to the government, Isidro asked Abueva to provide Congress with more details on the disposition or status of the land. He pointed out that Congress should be properly informed on the present status of these lands so that it can legislate wisely on the proposed conversion plans. "If we have not done anything on these reverted baselands, what assurances are there that we can do anything once all the baselands, including the military facilities in the bases, are fully restored to us?" Isidro asked.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress has received a document on the plan of the U.S. Navy to close down 34 military facilities, including air facilities in Japan and the Philippines. The list of candidates for possible closure was produced at a House of Representatives hearing by Democratic Rep. Patricia Schroeder. Vice Admiral Stanley Arthur confirmed the list was a draft of possible closures and realignments, which had been drawn up by Navy officials.

Officials Deny Meeting With Taiwanese Minister

HK2604053590 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY in English 26 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[By reporter Maria Luz Baguioro]

[Text] A local Chinese-language newspaper yesterday reported that President Aquino on Monday hosted a reception for Taiwanese economic minister Chen Li-an and his party, in violation of the terms of diplomatic relations between Manila and Beijing which agreed on a One-China policy. The UNIVERSAL DAILY NEWS bannered a reported, saying Mrs. Aquino "exchanged views on bilateral relations" with the visiting Taiwanese official. The daily also reported that Chen, who visited the country from April 22 to 24, was the third Taiwanese official received by Aquino since imposing a ban on official travel to Taiwan in 1987. Earlier, she met Taiwanese Foreign Minister Lien Chan and his predecessor, Ting Mao Shih, it added. The UNIVERSAL DAILY NEWS editor, Eddie Lee, said the story was originally carried by a Taipei newspaper, CENTRAL DAILY NEWS. He said the paper did not identify its sources.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III denied the reported meeting. "I have a list of the persons who see the President every day. She never met anyone by that name and she never left the office last Monday and Tuesday," Gomez said. He added that even if there was such a reception, "I don't think the President was there. Balitang kuchero 'yan. Paninira na naman. [That is just hearsay. Another false statement.]"

The Chinese embassy, on the other hand, yesterday tried its best to verify the report. Embassy spokesman Guo Baocheng said they would think what steps to take after it is confirmed. Beijing reminded the Philippines last Monday of the One-China policy it committed to respect when both countries opened diplomatic ties in 1975. "We oppose contact of an official nature with Taiwan by countries having diplomatic relations with us," Guo said in a statement.

Philippine trade officials said the visit aims to promote trade and investments between the two countries. Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA], however, maintained that Chen's visit did not constitute a breach of the One-China policy since no official talks were held. Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. reportedly hosted dinner Sunday for Chen and his group. Official discussions with trade and economic officials had likewise been arranged. The Chinese reminder was not the first rebuke Beijing gave to show its displeasure over the Philippines' continuing flirtation with Taiwan. Last year, Chinese Ambassador Wang Yingfan conveyed an aide memoire to the DFA, detailing apparent violations of the Philippine commitment to deal only with Beijing which included the visit of Manglapus to Taipei from October 21 to 23.

Report Cites 1989 Japanese Technical Assistance

HK2604055590 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 26 Apr 90 p 2

["Indicator" column by Irene M. Cariaga: "RP (Republic of the Philippines) 2nd Biggest Recipient of Japan Special Fund in '89"]

[Text] The Philippines was the second biggest recipient of technical assistance financing grants from the Japanese Special Fund (JSF) last year, the recently-released annual report of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) showed. ADB statistics revealed that the Bank granted a $6.998 billion technical assistance to the country for 22 projects during the period, 54.6 percent or $3.82 billion of which was drawn from JSF. This amount represents one of the biggest JSF grants last year, second only to Pakistan's $4.397 billion.

The Balance was covered by the Bank's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF) which is comprised of voluntary contributions from both developed and developing member countries; income from ordinary capital resources (OCR) operations; allocations to TASF from the Bank's development fund, and grants from other multilateral and bilateral sources. The JSF is a contribution of the Japanese government to ADB's financial resources and is aimed at helping developing ADB-member countries (DMCs), such as the Philippines, in restructuring their economies in the light of the changing global economy and in broadening the scope for new investment.

Among the projects financed by the Fund for advisory and operational technical assistance last year were the strengthening of the Industrial Guarantee Loan Fund (IGLF) administration, $150 million; training for staff of participating financial institutions, $50 million; improvement of small and medium industries (SMI) development policies and programs, $150 million; institutional strengthening of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), $350 million, and of the Fisheries Sector, $900 million. In addition, JSF has also extended project preparatory technical assistance to the following: mineral resources development, $400 million; nonformal education, $320 million; horticulture development, $350 million; mangrove development, $600 million, and urban development, $550 million.

The Bank likewise served as executing agency for the Netherlands' technical assistance grant for the country's micro-enterprise sector worth $595 million. Other projects include the National Hospital Service Development Plan, $470 million; socio-economic study for Mindanao small holder development, $25 million; integrated development for low income upland communities, $95 million; institutional strengthening of the Land Bank of the Philippines, $500 million; mineral resources development update, $75 million, and power sector training center, $93 million.

Moreover, the multilateral lending body extended technical assistance for the improvement of forecasting techniques in development planning using demographic factors, $225 million; the strengthening of the project facilitation committee, $100 million; Angar Water Supply Optimization, $300 million; agro-forestry research and development, $600 million, and strengthening of the dredging capability of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), $100 million.

Incidently, two loans were approved for the Philippines last year which resulted from earlier ADB technical assistance. These were the Angat Water Supply Optimization (1988) and the low income upland communities (1989). On a sectoral basis, ten projects were in the agriculture sector, four each in industry and social infrastructure, one each in energy and ports, while the remaining two were provided to government agencies for increasing administrative capacity.

Campaign To Block MNLF Bid To Be Launched

HK2604054990 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY in English 26 Apr 90 p 3

[By reporter Maria Luz Baguioro]

[Text] The Philippine government will launch a vigorous diplomatic campaign to block the expected renewal by the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) of its membership bid in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus revealed yesterday. "There are plans for intensified representations with the OIC after the Ramadan (which ended April 25) and until the Cairo meeting (from June 11 to 14)," Manglapus said in an interview. Representations, he said, would include personal calls of Philippine ambassadors to Islamic countries on officials of their host government and the distribution of the "White Paper" on the Muslim question prepared by the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs].

Meanwhile, the DFA's Office of Middle Eastern and African Affairs said that OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid indicated he could not accept the invitation to visit Manila before June. "We had hoped that he could come before the meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Egypt. But pressing developments in the Middle East and lack of time prevent him from doing so," a DFA official said. The same official said that the invitation, which was formally conveyed last February by Philippine Ambassador to Riyadh Abraham Rasul, still stands. "We would still welcome a visit from him anytime after the meeting," he added. Meanwhile, Manglapus said that the DFA has not yet received any response from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak regarding President Aquino's request for him "to delete the Muslim question" in the OIC's agenda. Egypt is one of the influential members of the Pan-Islamic Organization and the host of this year's foreign ministerial meeting.

Labor Unions To Hold Massive Rally on 1 May

HK2404104590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] The KMU [1 May Movement] is set to hold a massive rally on Labor Day to demand from the government the increase of workers' wages by 23 pesos. KMU national chairman Crispin Beltran said they will ask for the rollback of prime commodities' prices and the nationalization of oil companies. He said there are around 100,000 members of the KMU and World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] who will join them in the Labor Day celebration.

[Begin Beltran recording] The largest meeting in the history of labor unions will take place. In Metro Manila, there will be some 150,000. The KMU will mobilize around 100,000 workers nationwide on 1 May. Our WFTU affiliates will join us. The issues we will bring out for discussion are first the political ones. We are against the retention of the U.S. military bases. Other issues are: increase in workers wages by 23 pesos, the reduction of prime commodities' prices, the end to total war [as heard], the elimination of fascism in the country, genuine agrarian reform, nationalization of principal industries like the oil industry, the thrust for comprehensive industrialization, and the democratic restructuring of the government through the creation of a democratic coalition government. [end recording]

The KMU leader added that the rally will be held at Rizal Park on Labor Day. The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines [TUCP] will celebrate it at the Araneta Coliseum. Here is Beltran again:

[Begin recording in progress] ...from Liwasang Bonifacio to Luneta. There will be converging points in Monumento, San Andres, Espana-Rotonda, and Mandaluyong. The march will proceed to the site. The TUCP's venue is the Araneta Coliseum. There are some small factions. Some LMLC [Free Workers Labor Center] members will join them. The certain thing is that the gatherings are in Luneta and the Araneta Coliseum. [end recording]

Editorial Views 'Merits' of Laurel's Observations

HK2304031990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Unity Needed to Solve Country's Problems"]

[Text] For all that can be said against him, Vice President Salvador H. Laurel has some good points being overlooked by the administration because of his running feud with President Aquino. Upon his arrival yesterday from Moscow where he attended, with other world leaders, three conferences on global peace and unity, the Vice President suggested that the Philippines, like all other countries, must now undertake peaceful restructuring or risk being left behind. He noted that in some nations like ours, violent confrontations continue and said changes in the present system must be effected if that system itself must survive. "Without such changes," he warned, "meaningful reforms will never be possible and grievances will remain unredressed."

Departing from his often pugnacious attitude toward Ms. Aquino and her administration, the Vice President said that to be able to achieve such reforms and the progress that is sure to result from them, there must be genuine reconciliation. He suggested that the President make the first move by initiating a series of dialogs with all major political, social and economic groups so that the various ills that now beset the country can be threshed out thoroughly and solved more speedily. Knowing full well Laurel's feelings about Ms. Aquino and her administration, we will not go out on a limb and say Laurel's motivations are genuine; for all we know, he may have some political motives. But we cannot deny the merits of his observations and the soundness of his proposals.

For too long now the country has suffered because the genuine reconciliation that Ms. Aquino promised to pursue in the first years of her administration has not come about. The deep and wide divisions inflicted by the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolt, between the loyalists of the old dictatorship and those of the new order have become deeper and wider. This is largely because Ms. Aquino appears to have chosen to remain until now as candidate Cory where on occasions she must satisfy her loyal followers by flogging their perceived enemies, instead of becoming President Cory to the entire Filipino people. Her previous speeches on EDSA, ironically at the foot of the Patroness of Unity, Our Lady of EDSA, are sad proofs of this.

But it is not too late for the administration to change its style. The country is undergoing a series of deadly crises which only a united country can dare hope to solve. We're sure everyone would be more than willing to do his share to help, as suggested in Ms. Aquino's numerous appeals for cooperation. But before such cooperation is given, the President must lead the way; she must dispel once and for all serious doubts about her desire for genuine reconciliation. Vice President Laurel's suggestion that she hold a dialog with all major political, social and economic groups could be a good beginning.

Investigation of Delay in Aguinaldo's Capture

HK2504133190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 25 Apr 90

[By Jonathan Cristobal from Camp Aguinaldo]

[Text] The defense department is set to investigate the activities and progress of military units tasked to conduct a manhunt for suspended Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo. This was announced by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos in a news conference at Camp

Aguinaldo today, after it was reported that the military has been negligent in hunting for the governor involved in the killing of former AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] CRS [Civil Relations Service] chief Brigadier General Oscar Florendo.

Ramos asserted that the capture of Aguinaldo is the primary mission of the Northern Luzon Command under Brigadier General Gumersindo Yap who, in turn, has instructed Philippine Army Fifth Infantry Division chief Brig Gen Orlando Soriano and PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] region 2 commander Colonel Miguel Fontanilla, to carry out the manhunt operations. Ramos stated that these men will be the subject of an investigation on the delay in the mission. Nevertheless, Ramos expressed confidence that these military officials are not negligent in their responsibilities.

31 Captured Coup Leaders To Face Court Martial

HK2504031590 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said 31 captured key leaders of the December attempted coup will stand trial before a general court martial. Ramos made the disclosure in a speech before the 82d annual session of the Philippine Dental Association at the PICC [Philippine Internatinal Conference Center] in Manila. He said the trial before the military court will start soon.

Ramos Invites Communist Rebels To Surrender

HK2504102190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 25 Apr 90

[By Jonathan Cristobal—italicized portions in English]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today invited the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] to surrender, as he ensured their safety, particularly those who will actively participate in the military's counter-insurgency campaign. He made the statement after ranking members of the rebel movement threatened they will liquidate any CPP-NPA member who will surrender.

In the news conference at Camp Aguinaldo, Ramos said the Department of National Defense and the military have this long-time policy of ensuring the safety of returning rebels. The threat, according to him, is a strong proof of the communist movement's violent and terroristic campaign. Ramos explained this is part of the CPP-NPA's Operation Missing Link. The mass graves, where bodies of suspected deep penetration agents are buried, in Quezon, Laguna, and Sorsogon, testify to this. The defense secretary reiterated that this report is enough proof for the people to realize the bad intention of the CPP-NPA.

[Begin Ramos recording] We are giving protection to returning rebels, *especially those who are actively helping in our counter-insurgency campaign.* The CPP-NPA threat *is consistent with their campaign of violence and terrorism,* which they meted out against their former comrades. They have already done it *in the operations that ended up in the killing of so many so-called deep-penetration agents found among their mates.* There are many mass graves in the Quezon-Laguna border, and the Sierra Madre mountains. Recently, mass graves were discovered in Sorsogon.

Let us not put so much importance on what they say regarding bringing peace and progress to our barangays and small towns. The CPP-NPA camapaign is based on terrorism and violence. If they say this often, I think the more the masses will not believe in their program. *On the other hand, the government is extending the hand of friendship to everyone, regardless of what kind of insurgent or rebel they are—for them to return to the fold of the law.* [end recording]

More Constabulary Troops Assigned to Mindoro

HK2604055190 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 26 Apr 90 p 5

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Mansalay, Mindoro—A company of Constabulary soldiers will be assigned here in response to a request of Gov Benjamin Espiritu and Mayor Renato Reyes of Bonganbon to Brig Gen [Brigadier General] Evaristo G. Carino, Recom 4 PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief, to add more combat government fighters against the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its military arm, the New People's Army [NPA].

General Carino, with his staff officers, and Governor Espiritu helicoptered here yesterday after some 200 CPP-NPA rebels raided the PC detachment and the police headquarters last Monday. Col [Colonel] Edgardo Maristela, Mindoro Oriental PC-INP chief, informed General Carino and Governor Espiritu that the rebels entered the town proper at 11:45 and tried to overrun the PC-INP-CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] detachment manned by four regulars and 12 CAFGU men and the police headquarters.

The rebel raiders withdraw after eight of their companions, including two machinegunners, were killed. They ransacked the house of Mayor Sergio Malabanan and took three rifles and a radio set; Eliezar Malabanan, nephew of Mayor Malabanan who was at the detachment distributing bullets during the fighting, was killed along with an eight-year-old girl. Pfc [Private first class] Weldy Gaharion was hit in the left arm and it was amputed at the provincial hospital in Calapan, Maristela said.

During a conference in Pinamalayan, Mayor Reyes, president of the Mayors League of the Philippines, said that he is offering the buildings in his town as the headquarters of the new PC company. General Carino informed the Mindoro officials that the new PC troopers will arrive tomorrow. Carino also ordered Col Rey

Logan, his deputy for operations and Task Force Mina de Oro commander, and Maristela to clear Mindoro of lawless elements, particularly the CPP-NPA. The new troops in Oriental Mindoro will be assigned in the mountain areas to augment the local PC soldiers and CAFGUs. Governor Espiritu and Mayor Reyes thanked General Carino and PC-INP chief General Nazareno for sending additional troops to the province.

Rebels Raid, Burn Iloilo Elementary School

HK2604054390 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 26 Apr 90 p 7

[By Amelia Ventenilla]

[Text] Heavily armed communist rebels raided an elementary school in the outskirts of Iloilo City before dawn yesterday and burned three buildings before escaping with school equipment and supplies, military authorities said. Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Pedro Sistoza, Western Visayas military commander, said the Alimodian Elementary School suffered damage amounting to P [Pesos] 3 million because of the New People's Army [NPA] raid. Sistoza, in a report to Camp Crame, said the motive of the attack was still being investigated.

In Lanao del Sur,two civilians were killed and two others wounded when NPA gunmen swooped down on Barangay Camalig, Pagayawan town, and sprayed bullets on several houses last Saturday.

In other developments:

—The U.S. Air Force has restricted travel to Manila for airmen, employees of the defense department and military dependents because of threats by communist rebels.

—One NPA rebel was killed in an encounter between a PC [Philippine Constabulary] patrol team and a 15-man rebel band in Sitio Panagsakan, Barangay Manalonon, Santa Catalina, Negros Oriental, last Saturday.

—Unidentified men lobbed a grenade into the Kristal Bakeshop in downtown Cotabato City.

Thailand

Costello Meets With Sitthi on Cambodia

BK2504132590 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] At 0900 today at the Foreign Ministry, Australian Deputy Permanent Secretary to the Foreign Ministry Michael Costello and his party met Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, on the Australian-initiated proposal for a peaceful settlement on Cambodia. This follows his visit to Hanoi and talks with his Vietnamese counterpart and with Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

After today's meeting, Sitthi told reporters Mr. Costello had been carrying out his duties to minimize conflict in the settlement of the Cambodian problem. His act can be regarded as positive and the Thai Foreign Ministry supports it. Moreover, his actions may help make the tripartite meeting in Tokyo a success and that may bring about a cease-fire in Cambodia, Sitthi said.

Asked about the possibility of a meeting among Thailand, China, and Vietnam which reportedly would take place in Bangkok, the Thai foreign minister said nothing has materialized. This is because China wants to see Vietnam's stance and sincerity first.

Cambodia's Hun Sen Invited To Visit for Talks

BK2604005590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia is expected to visit here within this week to discuss with senior Thai officials how to end the Cambodian conflict, informed sources said. Sources said that Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut has invited Hun Sen for informal peace talks on Cambodia.

Hun Sen visited Thailand in February when he met with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and signed a joint communique supporting the UN role in Cambodia.

Before leaving for Bejing yesterday, Prime Norodom Sihanouk voiced support to Hun Sen's visit here saying that the trip will give him an opportunity to hold discussions with the Thai government. "It's good to let him (Hun Sen) hold discussions with your (Thai) government to try to make some progress in a search for an equitable solution to the problem," Sihanouk said.

The Cambodian monarch will stay in Beijing until May 16 before returning to Thailand.

Sources added that Kraisak Chunhawan, PM's [Prime Minister's] adviser, was in touch with Phnom Penh yesterday to work out a preparatory meeting for a new round of talks between Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Premier Hun Sen in Tokyo in June. The source said Kraisak discussed with Sok An, Phnom Penh's vice foreign minister, about a list of an advance team to be dispatched to Bangkok next month.

There was confused reports yesterday saying that Hun Sen is scheduled to arrive here today, but officials at Ban Phitsanulok [Prime Minister's Advisers Office] and the government house failed to confirm the report. "It was a misunderstanding," an official said.

Military Chief on 'Neutral Camp,' Border Policy

BK2604015590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Apr 90 p 5

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen [General] Sunthon Khongsomphong said yesterday that the military was ready to proceed with the plan to set up a neutral camp for Cambodian refugees but warned the plan could be jeopardized because foreign financial aid would be inadequate.

"Where would we get the money?" Sunthon said. "If we asked for, say, Bt [Baht] 50 million, even if the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] agreed in principle, I think it is likely that when we implemented the project we would get less than that." National Security Council Secretary General Suwit Suthanukun has said that at least Bt500 million was needed to establish the politically neutral camp.

UNHCR would have to seek funds from major donor countries. A source has said that the United States, the biggest source of international aid, had refused to provide a share of the funding.

Sunthon said he would object to Thailand using its own money to make up for what donor countries do not provide. "There are no reasons for the government to spend money for the Cambodians. Our money must be spent for the Thai people only," he said.

Sunthon said the Khao I-Dang camp near the Cambodian border in Prachin Buri province was the best site to establish the politically neutral camp. Any site deeper inside Thailand would threaten the country's territorial integrity, Sunthon contended.

The choice of Khao I-Dang was a compromise between Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who wanted the neutral camp to be set up inside Thailand, and the military, which pushed for the camp to be located in Cambodia.

Sunthon also said that Thai troops stationed along the border would be under orders to strike at Cambodian resistance troops who allowed their war against the Phnom Penh government to spill over into Thai territory. The retaliation would be prompt, he said. "If there is one artillery shell landing on the Thai side, we will retaliate with 10 artillery shots," he said. He said he did not care how fierce the fighting inside Cambodia was; his only concern was to protect Thai soil from being used as a battleground.

Field military sources have said the policy of prompt retaliation would be both good and bad for Thailand. On the down side, retaliations could trigger artillery duels between Thai soldiers and Cambodian troops, causing damage to Thai border villages. But the benefits are that retaliations could prevent fighting from moving into Thailand. The Thai troops would be under orders to seek and destroy their targets as quickly as possible.

On diplomatic efforts to break the deadlock toward a settlement in the 11-year-old Cambodian conflict, Sunthon said he was pessimistic and that it would take rival Cambodian factions a long time to realize that they need to abandon their partisan interests. Sunthon refused to comment on Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk's agreement to meet with Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen in Tokyo in early June. But Sunthon added that the conflict should be left to the Cambodians to resolve by themselves.

Report on 'Boat People' in Southern Province

BK2504094890 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] More Vietnamese boat people have arrived so far this year in the southern Thai province of Nakhon Si Thammarat than in the whole of 1989, a local refugee official said yesterday. He said 233 had been sent to a transit camp, and 81 were awaiting processing. Most of the refugees were from southern Vietnam. About 200 Vietnamese boat people landed there last year.

However, these boat people will be put under strict screening rule, which is approved as a practical measure by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or UNHCR. The major aim is to screen out genuine refugees from economic migrants. However, most of the boat people claiming as political refugees are found out later as economic migrants. They will later be proceeded to send back to Vietnam under the voluntary repatriation program, or detained in the camps of the first asylum countries without hope to be settled in the Western nations. [sentence as heard]

Taiwan Trade Officials Allowed To Stay Longer

BK2604102690 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese 25 Apr 90 p 16

[Text] The Thai Government has approved residence permits for officials of the Taiwan Far East Trade Office from one year to three years on a case-by-case basis.

A source close to the government said that the cabinet passed the above regulation at a recent meeting after realizing that this would not affect diplomatic relations between Thailand and China. This is because the regulation applies only to trade and has nothing to do with politics.

The source said the Far East Trade Office had asked the Foreign Ministry and the Commerce Ministry to extend the one-year residence permits for its officials to facilitate their commercial duties. After consideration, both the ministries held that the extension will facilitate the officials' commercial duties, and that this had nothing to do with politics. The move will also not affect diplomatic relations between Thailand and China. As a result, the ministries submitted this issue to the cabinet meeting for consideration. The cabinet approved the proposal in principle and attached three of the following rules:

1. In principle, officials of the Far East Trade Office are allowed to extend their residence permits from one year to three years but they have to submit applications for this.

2. The officials have to fill applications forms and pay fees in accordance with official regulations.

3. The approval of such applications falls under the authority of the Foreign Ministry and the Commerce Ministry on a case-by-case basis. After approval, the Immigration Division of the Police Department will process the approval.

Army To Buy 'Decommissioned' Tanks From U.S.

BK2604021590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] The Royal Thai Army [RTA] plans to cash in on the US move for a drastic defence force reduction by purchasing 300 tanks to be decommissioned from the US army and sold at low prices, Army Commander in Chief Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday. Fifty of the tanks are of M-60 model and the rest are M-48 A5. The army is preparing to seek Bt [baht] 1 billion from the government for the purchase, said the army chief.

Suchinda said the army currently spends Bt30 million to repair a tank [as published]. He said the old American tanks it plans to buy would cost only about Bt3 million each and are still in good condition.

The general said the army is also considering buying a number of used armoured personnel carriers from the US army after the purchase of the 300 tanks.

Army sources said that Suchinda was seeking to conclude a "package deal" with the US—the tanks must be sold with complete sets of weapons and equipment and the US must guarantee continued supply of spare parts for future repair and maintenance. The administration was trying to purchase the modern tanks from the United States at what is known as a "friendship price", said Gen Wanchai Ruangrakun, the defence permanent secretary.

Deputy Army Chief of Staff Gen Chatchom Khanlong said it would take him about seven days to work out details of the plan and put forward his recommendations to the army chief.

Wanchai said the plan to set up the tank battalion had been on the army's mind for a long time.

When Gen Prem Tinsulanon was prime minister, he ordered the then army chief of staff to consider three models of tanks, whose manufacturers were competing for a deal with the RTA. The three contending models were the M-60, which was then widely used in the US army, British-made Victor Mark 3 and West German-made Leopard 1, Wanchai said.

After a period of consideration, the Prem government was inclined to opt for the fourth choice—M48 A5, which was considered comparatively more advanced and sophisticated than the other models. Suchinda's decision to purchase the M-60 was thus a twist and he had good reasons to make the decision, Wanchai said, adding that this model was still one of the most modern tanks at an attrative price.

Customs Officials Arrest 2 Nigerians With Heroin

BK2404023990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Customs officials yesterday arrested a Nigerian man and woman at Don Muang Airport who were allegedly trying to smuggle 3.4 kilogrammes of heroin out of the country, according to a Customs Department press release. Peter Ogusugu, 27, was arrested while he was waiting to take a KLM flight to Amsterdam. Madinadu Adiola Hamed, 30, was arrested when she was about to board a flight to Germany, the press release said.

The arrests brought to 36 the number of Nigerians apprehended in Thailand on drug charges since January. From those suspects, customs officials have seized a total of 128 kgs of heroin. The officials said they took about 3 kgs of high-grade heroin from Hamed, who was carrying the drug in her girdle. Ogusugu allegedly was carrying another 400 grammes of the drug in his suitcase. Customs officials estimated the street value of the heroin in Thailand at Bt [baht] 700,000. In Europe and the United States, the heroin would be worth as much as Bt70 million, officials said.

Cabinet Unanimously Supports Balanced Budget

BK2504034190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 90 pp 17, 28

[Text] Cabinet yesterday gave its unanimous support to the nation's first-ever balanced budget. The budget jointly drawn up by the Finance Ministry, National Economic and Social Development Board, Bank of Thailand and the Budget Bureau puts the projected expenditure and state income Collection for the 1990-91 fiscal year, beginning October, at [baht] 387,500 million.

Finance Ministry Pramuan Saphawasu said the budget was designed to meet five broad objectives—enhancing the country's economic growth and stability, improving income distribution, developing human resources, improving people's quality of life and environmental conditions, and increasing the country's capability in science and technology.

To attain the above objectives, a budget of 158,053.7 million was allocated as follows:

—14,458.3 million baht, an increase of 4,504.9 million or 45.3 percent above this year's budget, was allocated for investment in economic infrastructure to help promote further economic growth.

—36,845.5 million baht, an increase of 7,989.4 million baht or 27.7 percent more than this year's budget, was allocated as a special budget to create job opportunities in rural areas and help improve rural services and infrastructure.

—73,779.8 million baht, a rise of 26,238.4 million baht or 55.2 percent was allocated to help develop human resources.
—31,694.5 million baht, a rise of 7,230.3 million baht or 29.6 percent, was allocated to help improve people's quality of life and environmental conditions.
—1,275.6 million baht, a rise of 133.1 percent, was allocated for science and technology research and development.

Budget Bureau director Bodi Chunnanon said the Cabinet had instructed all ministries and agencies to revise their budget allocations within two weeks and submit the revised figures to the bureau before May 7. The bureau will compile the figures and submit them to the Cabinet for final approval one week later.

Mr Bodi said expenditure for the next fiscal year could be expanded further without affecting the country's fiscal stability.

The 387,500 million baht budget represents about 17 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is around the same as in previous years. The main thing to be considered if the budget is to be expanded is whether it would create inflationary pressure, he said.

According to government estimates, the balanced budget would result in a 5.6 percent inflation rate in 1991 when GDP would expand 8.4 percent to 2,278,752 million baht. "The budget puts more emphasis on fixed budgets to provide more incentive to civil servants, while the investment budget also expanded at a reasonably high rate of 26 percent.

"We are worrying about the possibility of higher construction material costs next year and if this is so, it would affect the Government objective somewhat."

Asked about the possibility of an increase in the ceiling for foreign borrowing from the current US$1,200 million limit, he said as the country's debt service ratio stood at a low level, he supported the move.

Meanwhile, Mr Pramuan said the Cabinet would hold a special meeting on May 2 to discuss the Value Added Tax draft and added that he may announce a tax amnesty at an appropriate time.

Vietnam

Further Coverage of Party Plenum Resolution

NHAN DAN Editorial

BK2604090390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Apr 90

["Report" on 25 April NHAN DAN editorial: "Thoroughly Understand the Resolution, Vigorously Accelerate the Revolutionary Action Movement"]

[Text] The Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Eighth Plenum's resolution announced today was a document of keen interest to our cadres and people during the past several months. The renovation undertaking, which has scored important initial achievements in various fields, has given rise to enthusiasm and confidence among the people. The broadening of democracy in society and further renovation in organization and activities of the party, the administration, and mass organizations have also given rise to the people's dynamism and creativity.

However, the party mass mobilization work—a key task—aimed at consistently strengthening the close relationship between the party and the people has not been basically renovated. Now is the right time for restoring and strengthening this close relationship to suit the current situation. This requires the party to basically renovate its mass mobilization work—work that must be guided by new concepts and viewpoints; that is, revolution is the cause of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The party leads the revolution, but its leadership and the state management are aimed at implementing and ensuring the people's right to mastery and not at ruling over the people. The objective of accelerating the mass mobilization work is to protect and harmoniously incorporate the people's various interests and to unify the citizens' rights and duties. This work must be carried out with diversified, concrete programs—not with general slogans of little substance.

Mass organizations should be set up on a voluntary, self-governed, and self-financed basis. In addition to the four major mass organizations [the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers, the Vietnam Peasants' Association, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, and the Vietnam Women's Union], we should set up more mass organizations. The mass mobilization work is not only the task of the party and mass organizations, but the state must also take responsibility in this task.

Given these guiding concepts, the renovation of the mass mobilization work must include the renovation of organization and activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and mass organizations and societies. Renovation should also be made to the state machinery and party leadership of the mass mobilization work. Renovating the mass mobilization work must be aimed immediately at accelerating the people's revolutionary action movement, effectively carrying out pressing tasks, improving the socioeconomic situation, satisfactorily developing socialist democracy in social life, strengthening political and ideological work, and motivating all people to participate in national defense and maintaining security.

The entire party, all people, echelons, sectors, and mass organizations should firmly grasp the party Central Committee Eighth Plenum's resolution. Given the current situation, in our efforts to firmly grasp this resolution we should strive to reach a consensus in appraising the situation in socialist countries, in realizing the imperialist schemes of sabotage, and in acknowledging pressing tasks of our party to renovate its mass mobilization work in order to strengthen the party-people relationship and improve its leadership. We must thoroughly understand the party eighth plenum resolution to be able to formulate a unified program of action. Each echelon, sector, and grass-roots units should formulate a concrete program of action focusing on the most pressing tasks that will bring about concrete results. Mass organizations should formulate plans to renovate their activities and organization in the direction of promoting good quality. Echelons of party organizations must design concrete programs of action from now to the Seventh CPV Congress.

The party eighth plenum resolution and issues resolved by this plenum as announced earlier in its communique have manifested our party's determination to continue broadening democracy in the party and society through the renovation cause and to develop the people's right to mastery in all aspects of political, economic, and social life. This has rejected the fabricated allegations that our party is limiting and opposing democratic activities. What our party rejects and our people oppose are pluralism, the multiparty system, undisciplined actions, demagogy, and bias of democracy to sow division and make extremist democratic demands. Implementing the party eighth plenum resolution, our entire party and people are closing ranks to consistently strengthen their close relationship while resolutely striving to successfully fulfill all pressing tasks to stabilize the socioeconomic situation and vigorously advance the renovation cause further, thereby contributing effectively to the cause of building the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

Contributions Praised

BK2504145190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Secretariat's Thank-You Note—date not given]

[Text] In order to make good preparations for the sixth party Central Committee's Eighth Plenum, recently held to discuss the topic of renovating the party's mass mobilization work and strengthening party-people relations, the party Central Committee Secretariat has made public a program on this matter to allow our entire party, people, and Army to contribute their opinions. The secretariat is very pleased to have received many practical and candid suggestions from various echelons and sectors representing the voices of different generations and trades from various areas throughout the country. Some opinions criticize the program's drawbacks. Some supplement and help develop its essence. Others call for a revision of its main features. The opinions contributed are very copious. They reassert our party's leadership role and underscore our people's earnest desire and aspiration for renovation as advocated by the sixth party congress.

The secretariat has condensed the people's multifaceted suggestions and presented them to the Political Bureau and the party Central Committee's Eighth Plenum. Those suggestions close to the topic of the program have been pointed out by the party Central Committee's plenum in its resolution on renovating the party's mass mobilization work and strengthening party-people relations. Many suggestions already forwarded to various subcommittees charged with preparing an outline for the socioeconomic strategy, drafting political and party-building reports, and revising the party statute, will become the main contents of the coming seventh party congress. The fact that an absolute majority of the suggestions are correct and practical is a vivid and fine manifestation of the blood-and-flesh relationship of the party and the people. They bespeak the good intentions, willingness, and high sense of responsibility of party cadres and members, the party's popular masses, the renovation undertaking, and the socialist construction in our country.

The party Central Committee Secretariat warmly welcomes and sincerely thanks various sectors, echelons, mass and other social organizations, and officers and men for having contributed their opinions and labor to the outcome of this resolution. Experience has also been drawn to ensure better suggestions for the preparation of the coming seventh party congress.

Nguyen Thanh Binh Speaks at Lenin Symposium

Installment One

BK1904134790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Apr 90

["Part One" of speech by Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, delivered at the 18 April opening session of a symposium in Hanoi marking Lenin's birth: "Creatively Apply Lenin's Ideas on Socialism to Our Renovation Undertaking"—read by announcer]

[Text] The 20th century has undergone many profound changes and witnessed events never before seen in the history of mankind. It can be said that basic changes that have occured throughout the world during the 20th century in a bid to liberate society and mankind and to build a new life in accordance with the socialist goals and ideals have all been closely associated with the reputation and achievements of the great V.I. Lenin. Being a successor of Marx and Engels, Lenin continued to comprehensively develop Marxism under the new conditions created by modern capitalism. Dealing with Marx and Marxism, Lenin said: We fully base ourselves on Marx's theoretical foundation, which served as the first base to transform socialism from a purely theoretical thinking into a science. His theoretical foundation has laid a firm groundwork for that science and has shown us the right path to follow.

Lenin was the first to turn scientific socialism from a purely ideological thinking into a reality. Mankind's dream of freeing itself from oppression and exploitation has come true and is part of the new life of hundreds of millions of people worldwide. These are the good things that realistic socialism has brought about in the 20th century. That goal has been fulfilled through the revolutionary actions of the people under the leadership of a vanguard political brigade armed with the ideological weapons of creative Marxism-Leninism.

Leninism is the new stage of Marxism, and the application and development of Marxism in the new historical conditions. The success of the October Revolution and the achievements in building the new socialist regime in Soviet Russia have testified to the vitality of Marxism and Lenin's ideas on socialism. They have also testified to a historical truth, that is, Leninism has integrated organically with Marxism into a single whole, namely Marxism-Leninism. That is the accurate scientific doctrine, or the theoretical and ideological foundation guiding nations to socialism.

As far as we are concerned, right from the beginning of the 20th century, Marxism reached our people like a ray of light at the crack of dawn and Nguyen Ai Quoc, our venerated Uncle Ho, was the first Vietnamese to know about Leninism. From that time, the Vietnamese people began to free themselves from the yoke of slavery and to join the revolutionary movement of the era. Uncle Ho once said: We, Vietnamese revolutionary fighters and people, have for long regarded Leninism not only as a marvelous guidebook and a compass but also as the sun lighting our path to final victory. Through his association with Leninism, Uncle Ho came to realize that the path to national liberation must necessarily be linked with socialism.

Today renovation, restructuring, and reform do not mean abandonment of Marxism-Leninism, but the correct and thorough application of its scientific, creative, and revolutionary nature. These terms also imply the need to develop Marxism-Leninism a step further, giving it a new and great vitality in the realities of socialist construction. Our country definitely opts for the path to socialism. That is the ideal and goal for which our people have fought for so many years. Our chosen path also conforms to the common trend of mankind's historical evolution. It is the outcome of countless efforts and sacrifices of our people through almost a century. It cannot be an incorrect decision, as some people have suggested.

According to Lenin, socialism does not merely result from the development of capitalism, which leads to socialist revolution, but it is also the inevitable result of development of the democratic bourgeois revolution and the national liberation revolution led by the proletarian party in not yet developed or underdeveloped countries. Proceeding from this scientific argument, Lenin raised the question: Why not begin first of all securing the prerequisites through the revolutionary path so that later, thanks to the existence of a worker-peasant administration and the Soviet system, we can advance and catch up with other nations? This is what Lenin said about the path leading to socialism in Russia; this has also proven to be true in our country.

In Vietnam, the path to socialism is the path of a national liberation revolution that developed into a socialist revolution. It is a continuation of two revolutionary stages—from the people's national democratic revolution to socialist revolution, just as it was outlined in our party's first platform. Once the national liberation revolution triumphed and the administration belonged to the people, led by our party, a socialist and not a capitalist regime had to be the path for our continued advance. This path must necessarily go through various transitional and intermediate steps in the advance toward socialism. The smaller the production force used by a country as a departure point to advance toward socialism, the longer its transitional steps will be. This is the way to gradually perform socioeconomic changes, build and develop socialist democracy, bring about democratic rights and freedom for the laboring people, gradually extricate the country from poverty and backwardness, and improve the people's material and spiritual lives.

Our party has unswervingly asserted that Marxism-Leninism is always the theoretical basis and ideological foundation that guides our people's entire revolution. It is not dogmatic nor plagiaristic to say that we persist in Marxism-Leninism. Formerly, Lenin never considered Marxist theory complete and inviolable, but he thought he had to further develop Marxist theory. We must realize profoundly that Marxism is not a dogma at all; it is a compass for action. Marxism is not a panacea containing ready solutions to all of life's problems. Lenin always stressed that the true value of Marxism lies in the method of dialectical thinking and the modus operandi conforming to objective truth. Lenin's famous point of discussion is to concretely analyze each specific situation. This is Marxism's nature and living soul. Only with this objective, scientific attitude, can we correctly assess the theoretical legacy of Lenin's socialism and apply this ideology to renovation.

Installment Two

BK2104072790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Apr 90

["Part Two" of speech by Nguyen Thanh Binh, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, delivered at the 18 April opening session of a symposium in Hanoi marking Lenin's birth: "Creatively Apply Lenin's Ideas on Socialism to Our Renovation Undertaking"—read by announcer]

[Text] Today, anti-Marxist forces are intensifying their attack on Lenin claiming, for instance, that Lenin turned Marx's scientific socialism into a mishmash of utopia and pragmatism, and that he overestimated the roles of dictatorial violence, ideology, and subjective factors in general. That is a gross distortion of Lenin's ideas and of historical realities, which may stem from the confusion between Lenin's scientific theory on socialism and the deformities resulting from either a misunderstanding or wrong application of Lenin's ideas in various countries in the recent past.

It was mainly because of errors in socialist construction that restructuration, reform, and renovation in socialist countries have become necessary to overcome these mistakes and deformities and to return to the Marxist principles of scientific socialism. In the history of its formation and development over the first three-quarters or more of this century, although socialism has had some shortcomings, its achievements are undeniable facts. Moreover, as a result of metaphysical thinking that has considered Marxist-Leninist theories as absolute, unique, and unchanging truths and has failed to adopt a specific historical viewpoint—a comprehensive and developed viewpoint—in order to analyze reality, socialism has been restricted for a long time by rigid viewpoints and models inconsistent with changing realities. With respect to Lenin himself, we must clearly distinguish the theoretical changes in his socialism through the various experimental steps of building socialism in Russia. In doing so, we will correctly assess Lenin's legacy, oppose distortions, find new renovation directions, and get rid of dogmatic and sophistic viewpoints.

As mentioned above, Lenin's creative development of Marxist doctrine lies in the fact that he did not wait with tied hands for the mature development of intrinsic contradictions of the capitalist society to clash with that society, while the revolutionary situation provided the opportunity to take the initiative in creating opportunities to win the administration over for the people. In building socialism, even in April 1917, Lenin had considered already the combined forms of the transitional step. On the one hand, he viewed monopolistic state capitalism as the threshold of socialism. On the other hand, he believed that shifting pre-capitalist relations with socialism must go through intermediary forms. However, the war situation forced Russia to apply the communist wartime policy. When the war ended, the socialist wartime model exposed much negativism resulting from the actions to wipe out the structure of the old society and to shift directly to socialism with the method of direct production and distribution.

After three and a half years of experimenting with this method, Lenin quickly switched to the New Economic Policy [NEP] by correcting naive and leftist mistakes. He permitted the existence and restoration of private and capitalist relations and the liberal circulation of commodities on the market. He promoted private interests, incorporating private interests with public interests through various transitional and intermediate forms such as tax concession, state-private enterprises, and small producers' cooperatives.

Along with state enterprises shifting to trade and by incorporating various economic components under state control and regulation, Lenin regarded state capitalism as an intermediate link between small production and socialism, and as a method for the quick development of production while carrying out inventory and control. This is a model for new-style socialist construction and a strategic approach toward socialism for those countries with a less-developed or moderately-developed economy.

In articles he wrote during the last years of his life reviewing the model for socialist construction reflected in the NEP, Lenin affirmed that all our concepts about socialism have basically changed. It is regretable that later many ideas in Lenin's NEP had not fully materialized. In Vietnam's path toward socialism, there was a time when we acquired socialist thoughts through textbooks and the experiences of the Soviet Union in the thirties. Life and experience have gradually shown us that although there are some positive effects in certain periods of time, a socialist model patterned after the format of bureaucratic centralism, red tape, and state subsidization embodies many deficiencies and drawbacks, giving rise to many negative consequences. Today, this model has become alien to our lives.

The resolution adopted in 1979 by the fourth party Central Committee's sixth plenum marks the start of a shift to the new mechanism. This was when we promoted private interests and applied various contract forms in conjunction with efforts to consolidate and strengthen the state-run economic sector and cooperatives. We made use of various individual and private economic components, and also manipulated market relations. Then came the sixth party congress when our party formulated the renovative line. Many resolutions adopted by various party central committee plenums and the Political Bureau since the sixth party congress had vigorously promoted comprehensive renovation, first of all economic renovation. A typical feature of the important change we are now experiencing is the emergence of a multisectoral commodity-based socialist economy that is democratizing social life and guaranteeing the people's right to mastery under party leadership.

Economic renovation has helped to gradually stabilize the national situation. Meanwhile, we have renovated the political system and refurbished the essence and the operating procedures of the party, the state, and various mass organizations. We have organizationally renovated the contingent of cadres, strengthened the close relationship between the party and the people, and created a firm foundation for stepping up economic renovation, developing production, improving the people's living standard, and maintaining political stability. From this we will unfailingly proceed to achieve comprehensive social renovation. The conclusion drawn from this is that we must persist in the renovative line laid down by the sixth party congress. We must prevent all wrongful and pessimistic tendencies which may allow anticommunist and antisocialist elements to infiltrate and divert the renovation, thus jeopardizing socialism.

Renovation is a long, uninterruped, and harmonious process—in both the economic and political fields. It should be carried out step by step, systematically and steadily. This process requires the party to renovate itself. Our party must first take responsibility for the success or failure of the renovation process. No socialist force can replace the Communist Party of Vietnam in this important historic mandate. The successes in renovation over the past three years have come about from the research and creative application of Lenin's ideas about socialism. They are contributing to restore and develop the genuine values of Leninist socialism. They also testify to the strong vitality of Leninism while dismissing all attempts by anti-Marxist movements to distort Marxism-Leninism.

Facts require us to study Lenin's legacy of socialist theory more deeply to develop and creatively apply Marxism-Leninism to the Vietnamese Revolution. This is if we are to draw on scientific conclusions to enrich the theory about scientific socialism. Our country's renovation undertaking is posing many great and stringent demands to the theoretical research of various scientific organs as well as to the theoretical cadres in our country. In studying Lenin's creative and scientific concepts, methods, and spirit, and preparing for those political tasks which directly serve the renovation of our entire party and people for the victory of socialism, the growth and prosperity of the country, and the people's happiness, our country's scientific workers will certainly come up with more worthy and useful contributions.

Temporary Tax Waiver on Grain Trade Announced

BK2204152690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Today, 20 April, the chairman of the Council of Ministers sent the following cable to people's committee chairmen of provinces, municipalities, and the special zone directly subordinate to the central government as well as ministers of agriculture and food industry; finance; communications, transportation, and posts; interior; and commerce:

In order to promote the free circulation and marketing of grain and to stabilize grain prices nationwide the chairman of the Council of Ministers has decided the following:

1. From now on, all traders shipping grain from the south and central region to the north for domestic marketing shall be temporarily exempted from commercial shipment tax. The rice thus shipped is not to be searched during transit.
2. State-run trade organizations buying rice from the south for sale in the north are temporarily exempted from paying state revenue contributions at places of both origin and destination. The rice thus bought must meet quality standards. Selling prices vary according to the qualitative grades of rice, but must conform to the table of state-directed prices. The temporary exemption of commercial shipment tax and state revenue contributions mentioned under Items 1 and 2 shall apply until further notice.
3. Provinces from Thua Thien-Hue to the north shall immediately stop the operation of grain traders who buy grain from the people for export, including minor export transactions.
4. Private traders are prohibited from buying rice from the state-run sector for speculation and price manipulation purposes.
5. Traders are permitted to buy marketable grain in Vietnam for minor cross-border export transactions, but must register their businesses and pay appropriate export duties in full to the customs stations concerned in strict accordance with the current regulations.
6. Prices of rice sold to the mountainous provinces shall be computed in accordance with the Ministry of Finance's Decision No. 72-HDBT dated 13 March 1990.
7. The Ministry of Communications, Transportation, and Posts must reserve means on a priority basis for the transportation of grain and regularly monitor charges for ocean, ocean and river combined, rail, land, and river freight services. The table of standard long-distance freight charges must be strictly observed.
8. The minister of agriculture and food industry, heads of the various ministries and organs concerned, and people's committee chairmen of provinces, municipalities, and the special zone shall adopt the necessary sanctions and forms of control designed to effectively carry out this decision with the aim of promptly stabilizing grain prices in each locality and throughout the country.

Cambodian Talks, U.S. 'Correct Attitude' Viewed

BK2504143690 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Over the past two weeks, the process of solving the Cambodian issue has taken place unceasingly and rapidly. Opening these activities was the visit to Japan of Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan earlier this month. During his visit to Japan, the Thai leader officially asked Japan to play host to the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting in Tokyo.

Right after that, the deputy foreign minister of Australia, Michael Costello, visited several Southeast Asian countries—including Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand—from 20 to 24 April to discuss the Cambodian issue. In Vietnam and Cambodia, Mr. Costello held talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Chairman Hun Sen to discuss the UN role in Cambodia and neutrality and prevention of genocide in Cambodia. In Bangkok, Mr. Costello met Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan. It is reported that Mr. Costello will return to Bangkok at the end of this week to meet Prince Sihanouk. These activities by Australian Deputy Foreign Minister Costello are part of Australia's efforts to solve the Cambodian issue. These positive activities by Australia have been acknowledged and highly appreciated by the world public because they have made a contribution toward promoting the process of settlement of the Cambodian issue.

Also in this period, a delegation of four U.S. senators, led by Senator Robert Kerrey, visited Cambodia to discuss with Chairman Hun Sen a political solution to the Cambodian issue, on the UN role in Cambodia, the sovereignty of the Cambodian people, and foreign assistance to Cambodian factions. These activities by U.S. senators have been noted and welcomed by the public, because of up to now the U.S. Government has not yet recognized the Phnom Penh government, and it always refuses to talk with Chairman Hun Sen.

Nowadays, with the changing attitude of many countries toward the Phnom Penh government, the United States has shown its flexible and correct attitude toward the State of Cambodia. This move by the United States has, in fact, promoted the settlement of the Cambodian issue. The United States should now make further positive contributions toward solving the Cambodian issue to show its clear stand on the elimination of the genocidal clique.

Japan and Thailand have contacts with Cambodian factions to organize the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting in Tokyo. Public opinion is highly appreciative of Japan's efforts in playing host for this meeting. The latest news said that after [initially] refusing to meet Chairman Hun Sen in Tokyo, Prince Sihanouk again declared that he would meet Hun Sen in Tokyo by June of this year. If Mr. Sihanouk does not change his opinion, the efforts made by Australia, Thailand, the United States, and Japan in solving the Cambodian issue will not be in vain. The coming scheduled meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk in Tokyo will promote the process of solving the Cambodian issue.

Cambodian Party Delegation Pays Official Visit

Meets Vo Chi Cong

OW2404135790 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1102 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 24—Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on April 21 received a visiting delegation of the Commission for organization of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] Central Committee led by Mrs. Men Sam-an, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and president of the commission, reports VNA.

President Vo Chi Cong expressed his joy at the great successes in national defence and reconstruction recorded by the Cambodian people under the leadership of the PRPK. He said he believed that the Cambodian people would obtain ever greater successes in their just struggle and asked the delegation to convey his best regards to General Secretary Heng Samrin.

For her part, Mrs. Men Sam-an conveyed the greetings of General Secretary Heng Samrin to Vietnamese Party Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh and other leadrs. She also expressed her joy at the remarkable achievements of the Vietnamese people and her profound gratitude to the Vietnamese party and people for their generous support and assistance to the Cambodian revolution. The reception took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and fraternity.

Departs 25 Apr

BK2504155590 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—A delegation of the Commission for Organization of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] Central Committee led by Mrs. Men Sam-an, Politburo member and secretary of the PRPK Central Committee and head of the commission, left here today, concluding a working visit to Vietnam from April 18-25.

While here, the delegation paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his Mausoleum.

It was received by Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the CPV Central Committee and president of the State Council.

The Cambodian delegation held talks with a delegation of the Commission for Organization of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee led by Nguyen Duc Tam, Politburo member and secretary of the Party Central Committee and head of the commission, on further consolidation and strengthening of the fraternal relations between the two parties in the organizational field.

The Cambodian delegation also had working sessions with the Hanoi Party Committee, Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone Party Committee.

Cambodian Ambassador to Vietnam Tep Hen was present at these occasions.

Interim Mekong Committee Session Opens 24 Apr

BK2504115790 Hanoi VNA in English 0812 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—The 31st session of the Interim Mekong Committee was opened in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday.

It was attended by a Vietnamese delegation led by Dinh Gia Khanh, Vice-Minister of Water Conservency and Chairman of the Vietnamese Mekong Committee, a Lao delegation led by Kithong Vongsai, Vice Minister of

Commerce and the External Economic Relations, and a Thai delegation by Pridi Suthat, deputy general director of national energy.

Also present were delegates from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, the GDR, the FRG, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Holland, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, Britain, the Soviet Union, and Poland and a number of international organizations.

In his opening speech, Dong Si Nguyen, politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, thanked the Interim Mekong Committee, foreign countries and international organizations for their scientific researches on the use and exploitation of the Mekong River. He also expressed the hope that with close cooperation between Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand and with international assistance, the Interim Mekong Committee will work out best measures to use and exploit to the full the Mekong River's water resource in a scientific and economic way.

ROK Diplomats Participate

SK2404121490 Seoul YONHAP in English 1204 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, April 24 (YONHAP)—two South Korean diplomats arrived here Tuesday [24 April] to visit Vietnam at an official invitation for the first time in 15 years since diplomatic ties between the two countries were severed in 1975. Song Yong-o, councillor for political affairs at the South Korean Embassy in Bangkok, and another diplomat came here and attended the opening session of the Mekong Committee Conference as observers representing the South Korean Government. The South Korean delegation is expected to discuss promoting cooperation with Vietnam and Laos, full members of the committee together with Thailand, at the meeting to be continued until Friday.

Besides the three full members, representatives from some 20 countries and international organizations including France, Australia, Japan, Italy, Netherlands, Britain, the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), U.N. Industrial Development Organizations (UNIDO) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) participate in the meeting. The Mekong Committee was established in 1957 by Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Kampuchea to promote cooperative development of the regions around Mekong River under the support of the ESCAP. Kampuchea pulled out of the Committee in 1978 in protest against Vietnamese invasion into the country. The committee sent an invitation to the South Korean Government in January to attend the gathering.

Suharto Calls for Cooperation With Vietnam

BK2504124790 Hanoi VNA in English 0746 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Indonesian President Suharto has called on Southeast Asian countries to cooperate with Vietnam in order to strengthen peace and security in the region, according to TASS.

He was speaking at the reception in Jakarta last week of Ruslan Abdulgani, head of the Presidential Ideological Consultative Department, who had returned from the UNESCO sponsored international symposium on Ho Chi Minh held in Hanoi late last month.

The Indonesian President opposed the policy of isolating Vietnam and stressed the need for Southeast Asian countries to assist Vietnam's development, TASS added.

Nguyen Van Linh Greets Indian Party Leader

BK2504155990 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, has sent warmest congratulations to Indrajit Gupta on his election as secretary general of the National Committee of the Communist Party of India (CPI).

His message says: "Under the leadership of the National Committee headed by you, the Communist Party of India will gain many new achievements in the struggle for national unity, territorial intergrity and prosperity of India and for the Indian people's happiness, thus actively contributing to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in the world."

Agriculture Delegation Attends Session in China

BK2404154390 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—A Vietnamese delegation led by Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry, has attended the 20th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization for Asia-the Pacific region, held in Beijing, China, from April 23-28.